Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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10 January 1992

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The "Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT" covers the same geographic area as the former "Soviet Union DAILY REPORT." The sections within have been reorganized. The "International Affairs" and the "Interregional Affairs" sections have been reduced, while the individual republic sections have been expanded. Much information previously found in the "International Affairs" and "Interregional Affairs" sections will be found under "Russia: International Affairs" or "Russia: Federation Affairs."

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Nuclear Experts Hired in Middle East, Africa

AU1001134492 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Copenhagen, Jan 10 (AFP)—Some 500 experts from the former Soviet Union's nuclear arms industry have been hired by various countries, notably Libya, South Africa, Syria and Pakistan, a Danish researcher told AFP Friday [10 January].

Her comments coincided with a warning by Danish Prime Minister Poul Schlueter on radio here Friday that this flight must stop if the former Soviet Union wanted Western aid to continue.

Researcher Tarja Kronberg made the comments after an international conference here this week on the reconversion of the military industry in the old communist Eastern bloc. It was sponsored by the Danish delegation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) assembly.

Kronberg said she "got her information" on the Soviet nuclear experts during talks in Moscow in November with Albert Panov, Soviet director of the international division of military economy and reconversion.

Schlueter said on radio he was "concerned" about such reports, and wants the issue raised with Western allies to "curtail the threat of nuclear proliferation and world destabilization."

"We must demand that the republics of the former Soviet Union and notably Russia stop this brain drain if they want to benefit from Western aid...and that they find jobs likely to keep them (the experts) in the country."

The conference was attended by 80 legislators and researchers from 15 Eastern and Western countries.

Uncertainty Over Military Control Slows Talks

AU0901164492 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Geneva, Jan 9 (AFP) — Uncertainty about who will control the former Soviet military has slowed multilateral disarmament talks here, Sergey Batsanov, Russian ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, said Thursday [9 January]. He said there was a "need for further arrangements" between members of the Commonwealth of Independendent States (CIS) that has replaced the Soviet Union. It was not clear if Russia would fully take over the command function the former central Soviet authority had.

Batsanov said that in discussions here towards limiting chemical weapons, the activities of the former Soviet Union had been taken over by Russia, including control of 40,000 tons of chemical agents on Russian territory.

He said the Ukraine had asked to be made an observer at the Conference on Disarmament, which has been sitting for 30 years to agree on a convention on banning the production, stocking and use of chemical weapons. But there were questions about the participation of the other independent CIS states in other disarmament talks. "In the other arms control discussions, will Russia be the only actor? That question is not decided yet," he said.

"I am not satisfied by the pace of our negotiation...the pace is not sufficient, we really would need to accelerate the work," Batsanov added. No date has been set for resuming bilateral talks with the United States on reducing strategic weapons. Batsanov said there should be more discussions to determine if Russia would be the only partner with Washington or if the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus would join. He said an urgent matter was to determine how to apply existing treaties, particularly the START agreement reached last year on reducing strategic weapons.

'Continuing Smuggling of Radioactive Materials'

LD0901170292 Moscow TASS in English
1637 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Golovanov]

[Text] Rome January 9 [dateline as received]—Italian finance guards detained four foreign nationals in Milan on Wednesday [8 January] for an attempt to sell two kilograms of red mercury of Soviet origin.

This fact, L'UNITA writes today, testifies to the continuing smuggling of radioactive materials from former Soviet republics to Middle East countries.

Italian investigators say they have evidence that nuclear substances or materials for their purification are being smuggled through West European countries, including Austria, Switzerland and Italy, to some Middle East countries, which are developing their own nuclear weapons.

The investigators say the four people arrested in Milan arrived in Italy from Budapest. In addition to mercury kept in two containers made of special glass with inscriptions in Cyrillic, these people carried a large amount of special documentation concealed in their Mercedes car with a Hungarian number plate.

According to the investigators, the mercury peddlers intended to ask Western intermediaries for 800,000 dollars, which is much less than the usual asking price, ranging from 50 million to 100 million dollars.

The four smugglers are believed to have brought along only a sample from a sizeable shipment of radioactive substances originating on the territory of the former USSR.

Some of the documents seized in Italy indicate that part of the Soviet nuclear materials offered for sale on the Western black market comes from the Siberian city of Irkutsk.

UK Desirous of Developing Bilateral Relations

LD1001035692 Moscow TASS in English
1928 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Sisnev]

[Text]London January 9 TASS—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will visit Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Russia between January 18-20, 1992, a British Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday [9 January].

He said the visit demonstrates Britain's desire to develop bilateral relations with Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Russia, and support to political and economic reforms in these states.

During the visit, Hurd is expected to discuss a wide range of issues, including nuclear arms control, human rights, and the fulfilment of the former Soviet Union's international commitments.

Before his trip to the three Commonwealth states, Hurd will pay a three-day visit to India, the spokesman said.

U.S., Japan Resolved To Give 'Effective' Aid

LD0901125392 Moscow TASS in English
1222 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo January 9 TASS—The United States and Japan are fully resolved to give appropriate and effective aid to members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) so as to help them reform their home and foreign policies—in both economic and political fields—and enable their governments to satisfy the basic needs of the population, according to an action plan in the field of U.S.-Japanese global partnership.

The plan was made public here today at the close of the talks between U.S. President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The action plan's section dealing with relations with the CIS has it that the United States and Japan intend to give humanitarian, food and medical aid to meet the most urgent requirements of CIS member-states. They will also render assistance in the conversion of defence plants for civilian uses as part of a larger-scale transition to a society with a lesser military orientation.

Washington and Tokyo also intend to help CIS member-states in developing infrastructure, including such fields as the distribution system and the power industry.

The action plan points out that Japan and the United States intend to act jointly in the interests of ensuring a success of the forthcoming conference, to be held in Washington on January 22-23, on the problems of giving aid to new states that have been formed as a result of the break-up of the Soviet Union.

The document has it that the United States will continue to give maximum support to Japan's efforts towards settling the northern territories issue which is "one of the last vestiges of the cold war".

Chernobyl Victims Receive UNESCO Aid

LD0901190292 Moscow TASS in English
1211 GMT 9 Dec 92

[By TASS Correspondent Viktor Khrekov]

[Text] Paris January 9 TASS—"Almost three million U.S. dollars have been collected during the year since the 'UNESCO- Chernobyl' programme was launched, and approximately 70 projects to aid radiation afflicted patients have been implemented," chief coordinator of the UNESCO programme Bruno Lefevre told TASS.

"At present, practically all the UN agencies have drawn up programmes to aid former Soviet Republics in their effort to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl

disaster," he noted. "UNESCO believes its main task is to coordinate international cooperation, the mobilisation of public opinion to help carry out Chernobyl aid programmes. We have taken several concrete steps to render humanitarian aid, including shipments of vitamins and medicines to the disaster area and purchases of medical equipment for them. A large consignment of medical equipment, worth 440,000 U.S. dollars, will be shipped already this February. It will be used to equip the radiological medicine research clinic in Minsk. The operation is being financed by the EC Commission. Equipment will also be supplied this May to the radiation protection clinic in Kiev. It is worth 280,000 U.S. dollars. The money was allocated by the Canadian Government. About 2,000 children from the Chernobyl zone have spent their summer holidays this year in European countries due to the UNESCO efforts. One of the major projects envisages the organisation in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus of a network of institutions for the psychological rehabilitation of Chernobyl victims."

"Unfortunately," Lefevre noted, "the memory of the Chernobyl tragedy is being gradually erased as years go by. It is now being claimed that the dimensions of the catastrophe have been exaggerated. This is due to the false reports released immediately after the tragedy. Definite difficulties have arisen after the collapse of the USSR and the emergence of new power structures in the Independent States, afflicted by the Chernobyl tragedy.

"It is absolutely obvious that the Chernobyl accident is a sinister landmark in human history. Its consequences must be further study. At the same time, we must not forget that millions of people have suffered from the catastrophe and they expect concrete assistance and charity. The UNESCO, which has amassed huge experience in coordinating international cooperation, intends to do everything possible to overcome the consequences of the tragedy, to prevent a repetition of the Chernobyl catastrophe," Lefevre stressed.

KGB Agent Denies U.S. POW Interrogation

LD1001000392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2210 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] At a Moscow news conference, retired KGB Colonel Oleg Necheporenko has described his conversation in Hanoi with an American prisoner of war in 1973, and two meetings with Lee Harvey Oswald, who shot President John Kennedy singlehanded, according to Washington's official version.

At the news conference Mr. Necheporenko denied the claim of his former colleague, retired General Oleg Kalugin, who said last week that his men interrogated at least three American POW's in Vietnam in 1978, and referred to Necheporenko, who allegedly was in charge of the interrogation. The retired colonel told journalists that he arrived in Hanoi for the first time in January, 1973.

[Begin Necheporenko recording in Russian fading to superimposed translation to English] There was an understanding that together with my Vietnamese colleagues, I would meet an American taken prisoner several years earlier during the (Da Nat) offensive, if I am not mistaken. He was known to be a member of the Soviet section of the CIA. In Vietnam he was a stationary CIA agent in (Da Nat), I think. The conversation lasted for two or two and a half hours. Then a break was announced for lunch, but after lunch the Vietnamese said that the prisoner did not want to continue the conversation. So this was by no way an interrogation.

I was in Hanoi once more a year later. For two weeks I worked on the records of interrogations of American POWs by the Vietnamese side. There were no more contacts between the Soviet and Vietnamese intelligence on the issue, neither did I have any more meetings with American prisoners, and I don't know of any meetings of other KGB officers with American prisoners in Vietnam. [end recording]

The retired Soviet intelligence officer reaffirmed that in September 1963, or almost two months before the death of John Kennedy, he met Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City. There were two meetings at the consulate of the Soviet Embassy. According to Necheporenko, they discussed the possibility of giving Oswald a visa for his return to the Soviet Union.

The contents of these conversations with Oswald will soon be made public in Moscow, Necheporenko said. He felt that the publication of such materials will allow experts to take a new look at the circumstances of the assassination of the American President.

Impact of USSR Collapse on CIA Viewed

PM1001121592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Single Edition p 3

[Article by M. Lazarev: "In Jest About Something Serious; Commonwealth of Independent States Exclaims, CIA Responds"]

[Text] The echo of the USSR's collapse has reached the CIA: Following the subject of its close attention, the Soviet policy analysis department has quietly receded into the past. And, like our Commonwealth, the Slav and Eurasian policy analysis department has proudly entered the scene.

...I have not visited the CIA Headquarters in Langley. But I can imagine quite clearly how in former times staid Sovietologists would don armbands and equip themselves with large scissors to unhurriedly cut out articles from PRAVDA on the stockraising successes of the "Vpered" collective farm, articles from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the initiative-taking unit in which Private First Class Pugovkin is editor of the wall newspaper, and fine pictures from OGONEK showing the Exhibition of All-Union National Economic Achievements. I can imagine how they calculated and predicted Soviet policy on the basis of important "signals" like who was awarded a simple handshake from our leader and who

got a kiss. Information obtained from an analysis of the sequence of names beneath important obituaries and the order in which leaders appeared on the Mausoleum was considered particularly reliable.

And now an end has come to this respectable, staid life. "Soviet machinations again, that is Eurasian machinations," they are sighing in the CIA. By the end of January the new department has been asked to prepare 10 reports assessing the situation in the former republics of the Union. Yet in the past they managed with just four such documents a year!

What were previously Sovietologists and are now CISologists (?) are obviously working on the verge of a nervous breakdown. In the past few people were attracted to the study of the Georgian, Uzbek, Belarussian, and other "Eurasian" languages. And, as CIA Chief R. Gates admits, they did not trouble to introduce agents locally—they made do with Moscow, which was the head for everything (and R. Gates knows for sure, he himself used to head the CIA Soviet department). And here the chiefs of the U.S. intelligence service hint quite transparently that half the CIA budget for the "Soviet salient" is too much in present circumstances, and the ranks of the "CISologists" can be, if not halved, then at least reduced by about 15 percent...

In general Langley is probably now recalling quite frequently a Russian saying, turning it around to fit the circumstances: "If you associate with the CIS your troubles will be many."

Commonwealth

Members' Meeting of Foreign Ministers Begins

LD1001100292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] A meeting of the foreign affairs ministers of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] started today in Moscow. This is the first official meeting in the fundamentally new situation that has developed with the setting up of the Commonwealth and the end of the Soviet Union. On the agenda is discussing interstate relations among CIS members. The ministers will also discuss ways for possible cooperation in foreign policy, the problems of dividing up foreign property of the former USSR, and military and political issues.

It was reported to a RIA correspondent at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the preparations for the meeting were conducted without complications and are an example of the constructive mood of the participants.

Military

Further Reportage on Black Sea Fleet Situation

Kiev Talks 'Unproductive'

PM0901163192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "The Black Sea Fleet Has Both Flags in Reserve: Russian and Ukrainian"]

[Text] The Kiev talks between the Black Sea Fleet command and the Ukrainian leadership were unproductive in the end. Admiral Igor Kasatonov returned to Sevastopol, having failed to persuade Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and the country's Defense Minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov that the fleet he commands is part of the Strategic Forces and, in accordance with the agreements signed in Minsk, cannot be considered Ukrainian.

Admiral Ivan Kapitanets, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, stayed in the Ukrainian capital. He aims to continue talks on the Fleet's future.

A group of Russian Supreme Soviet deputies has also appealed to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. They are asking the Ukrainian parliamentarians to revoke the demand for Black Sea Fleet officers to take an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people and not to allow the republic's state flag to be hoisted on the Fleet's ships. These actions, they believe, violate the Alma-Ata and Minsk agreements and create an explosive situation. Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy was one of the 15 signatories of the letter to the Kiev colleagues.

The question of the Black Sea Fleet's future could indeed become the most acute issue in relations between the two states of the new Commonwealth in the very near future. The problem is that the Minsk agreements plainly state: The Navy is an integral part of the strategic forces, which are under a unified command. But Ukraine has its own view. It believes that since the Black Sea Fleet has no ships with strategic nuclear missiles or other weapons of mass destruction on board it cannot be considered strategic or be part of the forces designated by the agreement.

The Navy Main Staff and the Black Sea Fleet command reject this position, describing it as incorrect. Why? The point is that ships of the Black Sea Fleet, specialists claim, are on active duty in the open waters of the Mediterranean Sea and are carrying out operational and strategic tasks there. In particular, they counter U.S. aircraft carrier groupings and the U.S. 6th Fleet, armed with nuclear strike weapons, and are also preventing a possible attack by them on our country's territory.

Moreover, more than one-half of the ships of the Black Sea Fleet are capable of carrying nuclear missiles and of carrying out major operational tasks both in the open sea and to protect their own coasts. For that reason they cannot be considered conventional forces.

Navy Main Staff specialists did not cite in conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent any specific figures to corroborate their position. But the information the editorial office possesses suggests that their view is very well-founded.

Some experts believe that we have 65 large surface ships in the Black Sea, including helicopter carriers, missile cruisers of the "Slava" class, on which G. Bush and M. Gorbachev held their meeting off the cost of Malta, and also large antisubmarine warfare ships and destroyers. The fleet includes 21 conventionally powered submarines, some of them armed with cruise missiles, and all of them armed with a variety of torpedoes. There are also small antisubmarine warfare ships, minesweepers, medium amphibious warfare ships, surface-effect ships, and combat support and supply ships. Around 300 combat vessels in all.

To that one must add naval aviation, which includes combat jets, reconnaissance aircraft, bombers and fighter-bombers, helicopters and antisubmarine warfare aircraft... Again around 300 of them.

Apart from carrying out purely military, strategic, and operational-tactical tasks, this armada costs a vast amount of money. Some $70-80 billion, according to the experts' assessments. Their maintenance cost approximately the same amount.

The Navy Main Staff shares Ukraine's concern about problems of protecting coasts and is prepared to give it support in setting up its own naval forces, its officers told your IZVESTIYA correspondent. They are prepared to allocate to the republic three brigades of ships with the requisite port and rear-area facilities to protect rivers and sea areas and also the marine economic zone.

Ukrainian presidential candidate Leonid Kravchuk accepted this option prior to the election. He said so at a fleet officers' meeting in Sevastopol. But the republic leadership's position is now different and people in the fleet are bewildered: Whose commands are they to carry out?

The Ukrainian president is demanding that they take an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people, while the directive from Armed Forces Commander in Chief Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov tells the strategic forces servicemen to swear loyalty to "their own" people.

The situation is acute also due to the fact that the Navy's ships are flying the blue and white naval flag of a country that no longer legally exists—the USSR. To them it is the symbol of statehood and territorial inviolability. But this proposition has long since become legal nonsense.

It has to be decided what flag they should fly. The Navy Main Staff said that legally it should be the Russian flag, since Russia is recognized by the world community as the rightful heir to the former Union.

Ukraine has its own opinion on the Black Sea Fleet, and its officers are waiting for the problem to be resolved. They reckon the political leaders of the two states can handle it. Like the military men they are, they will click their heels and salute.

Just in case, they have two flags in reserve: Russian and Ukrainian.

Kasatonov News Conference

PM1001093792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Captain Second Rank V. Pasyakin under the general heading: "The Division of the Navy Means Its Destruction"]

[Text] Our correspondent Captain Second Rank V. Pasyakin reports that on 8 January Admiral I. Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, held a news conference attended by the Fleet's Military Council.

In his statement the admiral remarked that, despite the complex situation, the Black Sea Fleet is under control, combat-capable, and subordinate to the commander in chief of the Navy and the commander in chief of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces. However, the Fleet is under some strain, and its Military Council has been involved in political games because of the hasty decisions adopted by the Ukrainian leadership and the republic's Defense Ministry, which categorize the fleet among nonstrategic forces and have tried to transfer it to their jurisdiction. The Agreement on Strategic Forces signed in Minsk has thereby been breached—as you know, the Navy was included in these forces.

The Black Sea Fleet is a complex, multifaceted structure, the commander went on to say, and it simply cannot be torn out of the naval system overnight and transferred to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's jurisdiction. Obviously, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry either does not understand or refuses to understand this. This lack of comprehension may be caused by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's lack of competent naval experts. The Agreement on Strategic Forces, which include the fleet, has been violated. I would like to remind you that the fleet is an operational-strategic formation and surface ships, submarines, shore-based troops, and fleet aviation can be used as nuclear weapon delivery vehicles. The current structure of the Fleet is scientifically based and strictly balanced and accords with the CIS' security interests on the southern borders.

Thus the Black Sea Fleet trains roughly 2,000 specialists for other fleets. At the same time it itself receives specialists from other fleets. Incidentally, Kasatonov remarked, we invited Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General K. Morozov to come along and familiarize himself with the fleet, its problems, and its specific situation, but he never came, although the Black Sea Fleet did not refuse and is not refusing to help the Ukrainian Defense Ministry to set up its own navy.

Our relations were complicated, the admiral believes, after it was decided to transfer the Fleet and make the Black Sea seamen swear allegiance to the Ukraine. But political decisions are needed first in order to take such a step. People must be released from their previous oath and a whole package of essential documents regulating the rights and duties of servicemen, their status, the procedure for their service, and pension provisions must be adopted. That is, this question must be resolved on a legal basis, in a civilized manner. Servicemen must not be driven into a corner and ordered to take the Ukrainian oath or else be discharged into the reserve or asked to continue their service in other countries. That is simply a breach of human rights.

Dialogue Has 'Reached Deadlock'

LD0901221492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet is evidently becoming a harder nut to crack for the political leaders of the newly emerged Commonwealth. The statement Boris Yeltsin made to workers at an aircraft factory in Ulyanovsk today merely acknowledges the heat that the issue is now generating. The chief of the Russian administration literally said the following: The Black Sea Fleet was, is, and will continue to be Russian, and no one will take it away from Russia, and that includes Kravchuk. Aside from that, Yeltsin indicated that via the commander in chief of the Navy he had given ships' commanders guarantees of protection and that he, Yeltsin, had appealed for no oath to be given to Ukraine. The Black Sea command also adheres to this point of view, expressing bewilderment at the swaggering manner with

which Kiev intends to separate strategic from nonstrategic parts of the fleet. In the meantime General Morozov, the republican minister of defense, declares that Ukraine is a maritime power, and needs the Black Sea Fleet to defend its seaboard. He was speaking in an interview with local television, although he was obliged to admit that the dialogue between Moscow and Kiev on this issue had patently reached deadlock.

This was also shown by a news conference held today at the Ukrainian permanent mission in Moscow.

[A. Lutskiy, correspondent] Replying to questions from journalists about the situation in the Black Sea Fleet, (Lazorkin), senior adviser to the Ukrainian minister of defense, declared that 90 percent of the Fleet personnel had agreed to take an oath of loyalty to an independent Ukraine. It was noted at the same time that no one would be made to take the oath by force. It was also stressed that it was not intended to deploy any Ukrainian land-based groupings along the border with Russia.

[Unidentified speaker] As far as one knows, the Ukrainian economy is far from being in the best of predicaments at the moment. Surely the Ukrainian Government has more urgent problems at this time than the organizational development of their armed forces?

[V. Kryzhanovskiy, authorized representative of Ukraine in Russia] This is a very urgent matter, because in dealing with the organizational development of our armed forces we want to reduce them substantially, and make them considerably cheaper. In particular, this will help our economy get back on its own two feet.

[Lutskiy] Statements are constantly being made on behalf of the Ukrainian people. It is being said that the Ukrainian people want this or that, that the Ukrainian people want to develop their forces. Have any public opinion polls or referenda been conducted concerning the organizational development of the Ukrainian armed forces?

[Kryzhanovskiy] I think that people are in agreement with what their leaders are doing.

[Announcer] As far as President Kravchuk is concerned, he believes that Russia has claims on the Black Sea Fleet, because it continues to treat the Ukraine as if it were not an independent state. During a news conference yesterday, Leonid Kravchuk insisted that the Fleet belonged to the Commonwealth, and not at all to Russia. But the question arises of whether there was agreement from the whole Commonwealth for the Black Sea Fleet to be made to swear an oath to the yellow and blue banner of a separatist Ukraine. As far as the taking of the oath by military subunits is concerned, the Ukrainian president said the oath was only being taken in units of the former Soviet Army which were being used as the basis for the creation of the republic's own armed forces. Let me remind you that these are the Kiev, Carpathian, and Odessa military districts, whose firepower is every bit as great as that of the German Bundeswehr, and indeed may even exceed it in some areas. This topic was the focus of attention at a conference held in Kiev today between Leonid Kravchuk and unit commanders.

Factor in 'Strategic Equilibrium'

LD0901224492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified off-screen announcer] [video shows captions with the following figures] The Black Sea Fleet has 45 large surface ships, 28 submarines, more than 300 small and medium-sized ships, 151 aircraft, and 85 aircraft carrier-based helicopters. There are indeed no strategic weapons there. The ships of this fleet are armed with tactical nuclear missiles. According to the Minsk agreement, the united command is in charge of the Black Sea Fleet, as its tasks are strategic. The Fleet is a factor in the strategic equilibrium of the forces in the region. The personnel and resources of the Fleet are called to be used in the Mediterranean Sea.

[Studio announcer] The question of dividing the Army and fleets is of very great importance, and that is not because property to the value of tens of billions of rubles is at stake. In this controversy, incidentally, Kiev has geographical advantages. The specially equipped naval and submarine bases are indeed stationed in the territory of Ukraine. It is simply impossible to build them quickly somewhere else, especially under current conditions. So what is at issue is that the fleet will be either Ukrainian, or will belong to the whole of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. From a military-strategic point of view, the question under discussion is whether the other republics of the CIS, above all Russia, apart from the Ukraine, will be able to have in the future genuinely defendable interests in the Mediterranean Sea. Access to the Mediterranean Sea also means access to the Atlantic Ocean. Bases in the north of Russia and in the Far East cannot fully make up for the loss of the Black Sea basin. [passage omitted]

Positions Said 'Clear'

LD1001101592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1610 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The Russian President Boris Yeltsin has informed the captains of the Black Sea Fleet that they are under Russia's protection and ordered them not to take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine. President Yeltsin said the Black Sea Fleet had belonged and would belong to Russia. More from our military observer Colonel Vadim Solovyev:

[Begin Solovyev recording in Russian with superimposed translation into English] The question of whether this fleet will belong to the Ukraine or remain part of the Commonwealth's joint Armed Forces arose quite unexpectedly. At their meetings in Minsk and then Alma-Ata, the presidents of the Commonwealth of Independent States—the CIS—decided unequivocally that the strategic armed forces of the former Soviet Union would

remain undivided and belong to all the Commonwealth states. It was determined that the strategic forces were not only those that are equipped with nuclear weapons but also the units fulfiling the strategic mission of defending the Commonwealth countries, even though these units possess conventional weapons alone. That is why the air defense troops, air force units, and fleets were defined as integral elements of the strategic potential of the Commonwealth countries and their common property.

The Ukraine seems to have failed to understand properly these military aspects. It assumed the simplest attitude to determining who the Black Sea Fleet belongs to: Since this fleet is on Ukrainian territory it must belong to the Ukraine. It also proved a revelation to the Ukrainian leaders that the Commonwealth Navy accounts for more than 35 percent of the strategic nuclear weapons, but all these weapons are with the northern and Pacific fleets. In other words, the Black Sea Fleet is an integral part of the Commonwealth strategic defense system and from the point of view of the existing strategic defense this fleet operates from two lines: one outer—the Mediterranean—the other inner—the Black Sea line. On the other hand being a sovereign state Ukraine has the right to have a fleet of its own. [end recording]

What is the attitude of the CIS Armed Forces Command to this? Here is what the Chief Naval Commander Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, told our reporter:

[Begin Chernavin recording in Russian with superimposed translation into English] My opinion is that the Ukraine has the right to have a fleet of its own and I am all for it. But in order to decide what kind of a fleet this should be first there is a need to formulate its tasks. They may include first the protection of state borders, secondly the need to combat all smuggling activities which pose a problem today for all the naval countries. In this case it becomes clear what kind of a fleet Ukraine needs and whether it needs the fleet performing now its major duty in the interests of all the Commonwealth states, including Ukraine. That is, to maintain the inviolability of these countries from this strategic direction. [end recording]

The position of the sides are clear, Colonel Vadim Solovyev writes. I think the political wisdom of the CIS leaders, which has already led to the establishmen of the CIS, will enable them this time as well to find an acceptable solution.

Ukraine Oath Violates Rights

LD1001091192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] To make the Black Sea Fleet swear an oath of allegiance to one nation represents a violation of human rights. This is the view of Vice Admiral Valeriy Grishanov, chief of staff of the Baltic Fleet. In a conversation with a RIA correspondent on 9 January, he also said the Ukrainian Government's decision flies in the face of common sense, inasmuch as the Black Sea Fleet cannot fulfill operational and strategic tasks the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces face on its own, while the splitting up of the Navy as a single entity may undermine the CIS' economic and defensive might, Vice Admiral Grishanov believes.

Telegram Urges Allegiance

LD1001095292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report by Matvey Frolov]

[Text] In Sevastopol, a telegram was delivered from Rear Admiral Vyacheslav Shcherbakov, deputy mayor of St. Petersburg, to the commander and crew of the antisubmarine cruiser Leningrad. The telegram read: I appeal to you as an officer of the Russian Navy, as the deputy mayor of a city whose name is borne by your glorious ship. Today you are faced with a choice: Whose flag will fly on your mast? Russia has been officially recognized as the successor of the Soviet Union. Having once taken the oath of allegiance to the USSR, we all swore an oath to Russia.

The telegram continued: There are no examples of treachery in the history of our Navy, especially not the betrayal that Ukrainian nationalists are drawing us into. Dear comrades, let us remain true to the oath, to duty, to the memory of our naval predecessors. Let us remember that [1-second break in transmission] of the Black Sea fleet will remain part of the Russian soil. The city whose name is borne by your ship always remembers you and believes in you. May your fidelity and combat might continue to be a guarantee of a reliable defense of Russia's sea borders!

Ranking Officers Oppose Plans

OW0901211092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1829 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] General Viktor Novozhilov does not approve of the Ukraine's moves to set up armed forces of her own. Speaking on Khabarovsk TV he said that 80 per cent of the officers serving in the Ukraine were Russians, many of whom had refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Ukraine and wanted to return back home. Colonel-General Novozhilov expressed concern about the sales to the Ukraine of the most up to date Su-27 fighter-interceptors produced in Komsomolsk-na-Amure.

The Pacific Fleet disapproves of the Ukraine's plans to take charge of the Black Sea Fleet. Commander of the Pacific Fleet, Admiral Khvatov, told a fleet newspaper that servicemen held conferences at which they criticized the position of Kiev.

Commenting on the reports about possible movement of the Black Sea ships to Vladivostok, Admiral Khvatov said he had not received any instructions to do so.

'Sound Thinking' Needed

LD0801235492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 8 Jan 0400 GMT

[Commentary by Vyacheslav Osipov—first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Text] The fact that the Black Sea Fleet has started to take an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people provoked a sharp protest from Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth. He described this as a violation of the Minsk agreements. Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov called upon the peoples, the parliamentarians, and the leaders of the countries of the Commonwealth to display common sense, not to rush events, not to permit the collapse of the defense capability of the states, and not to damage the destinies of people by ill thought out decisions. Our commentator Vyacheslav Osipov writes in this connection:

[Osipov] In the Ukraine I don't think they even want to heed the common sense for which Shaposhnikov, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth, is calling. On the contrary, they are trying to punish the disobedient, as is happening with Admiral Igor Kasatonov, the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, who has become persona non grata in the independent [samostiynyy] state; and they don't want to listen to the admiral's arguments about servicemen from 45 nationalities serving in the Fleet, about only 19 percent of officers being Ukrainians, among seamen and petty officers the figure is 30 percent. How can one make others take an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian State if the seaman or midshipman comes from Belarus and the Transcaucasus? No, the Ukrainian military commanders are in a hurry. What worries them least of all are the destinies of people. They are wrong. Already in some places one has to be very punctilious with issues concerning the division of the Army, though the main thing is to be careful.

As an argument to justify the individual oath they quote the fact that for the first quarter of 1992 the Ukrainian Government has financed every single unit located upon its sovereign territory, including the Black Sea Fleet. Let's assume that that is the case. But service is not confined to one single quarter. Are there enough resources in Ukraine to maintain all the guns, tanks, missiles, and ships that they have taken over? Who is going to operate them if the Ukrainian leaders declare the presence of large numbers of Army and Navy officers to be undesirable upon their territory? How will they deal with Admiral Kasatonov? Who is going to repair the combat equipment? Who is going to store it? To train the specialists? In Ukraine the military property belonging to the ground troops alone is estimated to be worth 50 billion rubles [R]. The annual cost of maintaining the equipment is a further 50 billion. Whereas the republican deficit—according to President Kravchuk—is also equal to R50 billion.

Incidentally, rubles are already out of fashion in Ukraine. They have decided to couponize everything there—if listeners will forgive the use of such a word, but there's no other way to put it when all they talk about over there is the coupon mess. So if one thinks about it, if one resorts to that common sense, what bank or organization would provide billions to maintain new armed forces? Some thinking needs to be done, some sound thinking, and not just by Ukraine.

Situation 'Threatening To Escalate'

PM1001101592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Vladimir Zelentsov "Commentary": "Machinations With the Army Will Lead to No Good"]

[Text] "The Army must be outside politics!" How many times in recent years has this "must" been heard! Don't interfere, dear Army (oh yes, dear indeed!), we ourselves will decide how to live now and what to do with you. But one way or another the Army has found itself at the epicenter of political ambitions—it has been forced to decide the fate of peace. Has not such a thing happened because the Army is... power?

This question might seem rhetorical, if it were not for the present situation that has come about concerning the Armed Forces of the former Union since the Minsk meeting of the heads of the independent states. The Army was expecting results from the conference but got nothing but new expectations. Whereas the agreement signed among the member states of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] on strategic issues made more clear something that had already been decided more than once, the agreement on the Armed Forces and border troops created new problems.

The heads of the Commonwealth agreed that each of the states has the right to create its own Armed Forces. The majority of the CIS members decided that the conventional troops stationed on the territory of these states will be under a single command. Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Moldova declared that they will command them independently.

Moldova and Azerbaijan are creating their own armies for quite obvious and yet, according to experts' assessments, quite local purposes. Ukraine is another matter, for it has resolutely begun "nationalizing" the troops and armaments of three military districts (Kiev, Carpathian, and Odessa), as well as the entire Black Sea Fleet. Having proclaimed itself a neutral state, Ukraine is striving precisely for armed neutrality with quite a mighty potential...

The situation with the Black Sea Fleet is threatening to escalate into a serious conflict between two CIS states. It is written in black and white in the Minsk agreements that the Navy is a constituent part of the strategic forces, which are subordinate to a single command. To all appearances, the Ukrainian leadership believes that, if there are no ships within the Black Sea Fleet with nuclear

missiles and other weapons of mass destruction on board (information that has filtered through meanwhile attests that they should not be in a hurry to make such a claim), this means the Fleet is theirs.

You would have to be childishly naive to agree with such a viewpoint. It is one of two things: We are dealing either with a new discovery in the sphere of the art of warfare or with political "longsightedness" of a quite definite kind. What, after all, is to be done with the 1936 convention governing the Black Sea Straits arrangements? Does Ukraine intend on the spur of the moment to become a party to the convention too?

Whereas some Black Sea Fleet officers (incidentally, Ukrainians make up just 19 percent of them) have put by two flags—one Russian, one Ukrainian—just in case, on the dry land within Ukraine's present borders the question "Whom to serve?" is not being resolved in a "militarily simple" manner at all for many "landlubbers." Those who refuse to swear an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people have been given a choice: to go and serve in another CIS country—the space is still defined by the borders of the defunct Union—or to be transferred to the reserve. It seems high time that defenders of rights began defending the rights of the individual in the Army against politicians.

An officer acquaintance recently telephoned me from Lvov and reported that entire regiments in the Carpathian Military District are refusing to take the new oath. The deadline for doing so is being put back daily. In the unit where he serves the oath is scheduled for 19 January.

"What are you going to do yourself?" I asked him.

"You understand," he replied, "I would, of course, like to go home to Russia. But my apartment is here, and it is easier to find food..."

It is also difficult for those officers and ensigns who have no accommodation to make the choice. The hope that the new army will provide accommodation is not great. Nor are many people warmed by the prospect of being transferred to the reserve, even if you swear an oath to a different country. For, after dividing up the Army, the Ukrainian leadership has promised quickly to reduce the units which Ukraine will get. What, then, are the nonexistent officers "loyal to the Ukrainian people" to do? Particularly as Major General Georgiy Zhivitsa, chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Main Staff, maintains that the Ukrainian Government will pay a military pension exclusively to those officers in the reserve who take Ukrainian citizenship.

But what of Russia, recognized by the world community as the legal heir to the former Union. If you follow logic, then the Russian Federation is also the legal heir to its Armed Forces.

Army General Konstantin Kobets, Russian state counselor, has called it an impasse situation and proposed resolving the problem around a negotiating table at statesmen level. The Russian leadership's desire to settle disputed questions in the way that is customary in the civilized world is understandable. But in that same world, by the way, it is not customary to abandon 60,000 of your Army and Navy officers to the mercy of fate...

It is not hard to foresee the consequences of the present Ukrainian leadership's political machination with such a dangerous "toy" as the Army. It has already experienced and is experiencing heavy moral and social overloads. A very sad development of events is possible if a primitive dividing up of the Armed Forces is accelerated. Both for Ukraine and for Russia. For the whole Commonwealth.

Preservation of Forces Main Issue at Conference

PM1001102592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jan 92 Single Edition p 1

[Interview with Colonel A. Zyuskevich, deputy chairman of the Committee for Work With Personnel by Colonel V. Semenov; place and date not given: "Officers Corps Asks To Speak"]

[Text] [Semenov] Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, our newspaper recently reported the forthcoming officers' assembly. What lies behind those brief lines?

[Zyuskevich] Indeed, in the next few days an all-Army conference of representatives of the officers' assemblies will be held in Moscow. And this has been caused by a confluence of very grave circumstances. Recently, or to be more precise in the past two to three days, the situation surrounding the armed forces has been considerably aggravated. In Minsk, as is well known, agreements were signed on retaining central leadership of the strategic forces. It is no secret that many people, and of course the servicemen, breathed a sigh of relief. The hope existed that the search for mutually acceptable ways of resolving very important problems of defense building had been set in motion. But in a number of former Union republics the agreements have started to be violated. The leadership of several sovereign states is displaying incomprehensible haste. The creation of their own armed forces is being forced through. This process, unless it is delayed, could become epidemic. The fate of the unified armed forces is without exaggeration being put in doubt. The men in shoulder boards are becoming, as it were, hostage to political games. Thus, in the Ukraine as of 5 January the process of administering the Ukrainian oath to servicemen, including those of units and institutions related to the sphere of backup for the strategic forces, has begun. There is a further paradox in the fact that an officer or ensign who through the logic of Army service is now on the territory of the republic has essentially been deprived of the right to choose.

Is it necessary to say much about the critical mass of dissatisfaction and social tension in the military collectives, especially the officers' collectives. They are demanding that the Army should "not be cut up" alive and that clear legal norms be defined which would enable them to live and carry out their professional duty under

normal conditions on the territory of the independent states of the Commonwealth.

Just recently the leadership of the Armed Forces, the General Staff, and our Committee have received hundreds and thousands of letters and telegrams with requests and proposals for the immediate convocation of an all-Army conference of representatives of the Officers' Assemblies. That decision has been made.

Anticipating your next question I can say that the agenda for the conference is determined by the acute, pre-crisis situation. That is, an analysis of the state of the unified Armed Forces and the quest for possibilities for preserving them. A second problem is the prospects of military reform. Another no less painful question is the sociolegal protection or to be more precise lack of protection of the personnel.

Let's think about it. Creating their own armies is the choice of the sovereign states. But to whom will the officers swear an oath of loyalty and what kind of oath on one-sixth of the Earth, who will finance the troops when leaders disagree and carry out uncoordinated actions? What will regulate the activity of formations and units, who will pay the pensions of servicemen in the reserve and when they are retired? By what laws will the Armed Forces be guided? Alas, there are considerably more overwhelming questions than there are answers. It is only television which can permit itself to discuss the prevailing situation under what is, forgive me, a stupid heading like "the Army—comic or tragic?" But in life everything is more complex. And I think that at the conference there will be an overflowing of the pain, anxiety, and resolve of officers to defend their honor and dignity and their right to a normal human life.

[Semenov] How do you see the "technology" of such a large-scale measure? Following the experience of former times was it all scheduled six months in advance: Who would speak when, and where, and what they would say...

[Zyuskevich] There is nothing like that. It is planned that the conference will be opened by Aviation Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces. Then there will be an exchange of opinions. All representatives who want to speak and voice their assessment and constructive position will have that opportunity.

[Semenov] Who will be represented at the forum?

[Zyuskevich] People elected in the units, on ships, in military training establishments, and in other military collectives will come. You asked about the technology. Well, at first it was thought that the auditorium would take slightly more than 1,000 people. But considering the opinion of the officer public, the Armed Forces leadership decided to considerably expand the range of participants. Most likely about 5,000 will gather.

I shall not repeat what has been printed in your newspaper. I shall merely stress in particular that the heads of the CIS states have been invited to the all-Army conference.

[Semenov] Will representatives of those units which, for instance, have sworn an oath of loyalty to Ukraine be present in Moscow and will the factor of borders' "transparency" operate in this case?

[Zyuskevich] I cannot say anything definite. Events sometimes acquire a truly unpredictable nature. Of one thing only am I convinced—all those who have been delegated to the meeting by the officers should come unimpeded. Regardless of district, region, and borders... You know, the Army is a unified, special organism and it is a thankless and indeed hopeless task to present it as a kind of bargaining counter in the hands of some politicians.

[Semenov] The editorial office is receiving telephone calls from readers asking where the conference will be held and how long it will last. There is also the mercantile but entirely reasonable question of who is financing the forthcoming event.

[Zyuskevich] First I shall answer the "reasonable and mercantile" question. The military department has assumed the expenses for financing it. As for the schedule, it is planned to hold the conference in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses and that it should last a day. It is not hard to guess that the work regime will be very strenuous. The servicemen do not want to be pawns in political games. That idea, as is well known, was heard clearly at the recent meeting of the CIS Armed Forces commander in chief with journalists. It is notable that the future fate of the army and navy is being resolved not in the quite of offices and not in the corridors of the top leaders. The problem is being submitted for discussion by the entire officers corps of the Armed Forces. And that is also an impressive factor of our times. There are great hopes that the assembly's opinion, reached through suffering, will arouse the leaders in positions of power to display as much state wisdom as possible in deciding the future of the Army and Navy.

[Semenov] Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, you spoke of invitations to the heads of the CIS states. How likely is their participation?

[Zyuskevich] As of today we do not yet have full information. We can speak confidently only of representatives of the Russian leadership.

[Semenov] And one last question. The conference will probably adopt a final document. Will the documents strictly speaking have a motivating force?

[Zyuskevich] Allow me turn to the abstract a little. Historically it has so happened that the Armed Forces have always been assessed by our people primarily as a stabilizing force. I want to believe that the forthcoming conference will act in the role of such a stabilizing factor. Many people are expressing the wish that the documents of the all-Army conference and of our public democratic

institution will be balanced, without emotional excesses, and will accord with the depth of the aspirations and hopes by which the servicemen and all our people are living. The voice of the officer public should be heard by the peoples, the parliaments, and the leaders of the sovereign states. Primarily for the adoption of the optimum decisions which are part of the civilized channel of our life.

Servicemen Favor Unified Armed Forces

Baltic Fleet Officers Meet

LD1001062692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1526 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga, 9 Jan (TASS)—The dismemberment of the Commonwealth's unified Armed Forces into national formations could lead to conflicts in the very near future. This is the view of members of the Coordinating Council of Military Servicemen of the Baltic region, a session of which took place in Riga today. The Coordinating Council called upon Army and Navy officers not to permit a split in the officer corps on an ethnic basis. At the forthcoming all-Army conference the officers of the Baltic region will come out in favor of unified Armed Forces.

Pacific Fleet Officers Meet

LD1001073492 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Palagutin]

[Text] Vladivostok January 10 TASS—Navy officers on board the Chervona Ukraina cruiser, part of the Pacific Fleet, unanimously spoke out in favour of preserving the unified naval force within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

They were also unanimous in their opposition to taking an oath of allegiance to separate states whose citizens are serving in the Navy. "Otherwise borders will have to be drawn across crew compartments, the ship's officers and midshipmen said in their message to the Russian president.

Officers on other vessels are also holding meetings to work out resolutions addressed to a national army conference and elect delegates to the conference. The Pacific Fleet collectives will elect 100 delegates to tell the conference about their main demands: the preservation of the unified Armed Forces, the creation of a single legal space on the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States to ensure legality in handling defence issues and the priority of common sense over individual political ambitions.

Shaposhnikov Meeting in Moldova Postponed

LD1001080392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The talks on military problems between the leaders of Moldova and Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States Armed Forces, scheduled for 9 January, have been thwarted by poor weather in Kishinev. The aircraft carrying the commander in chief had to return to Moscow.

Last Big Pacific Fleet Ship Leaves Vietnam

OW0901161592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As INTERFAX learned from military sources, on December 22 the last big Pacific Fleet ship 'Admiral Spiridonov' returned to Vladivostok from Vietnam's port of Camranh which houses the Fleet's logistics base.

According to the military sources, "Big Soviet ships will no longer be based in Cam Ranh." Cam Ranh will serve as a base only for the ships securing the calls of vessels passing through the South China Sea.

On 1 January the number of Soviet military advisers stationed in Vietnam was reduced to 50 men. It is believed that even they will be withdrawn from Vietnam by late May this year.

Economic & Social

Budget Deficit of Former Union Published

LD0901232292 Moscow TASS in English 2215 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Moscow January 9 TASS—The Soviet Union has collapsed but left immense budget problems which have yet to be settled by the Commonwealth states.

In the first quarter of 1991, the Federal budget deficit reached 150 billion roubles, exceeding the original 26.7 billion roubles by 5.21 times, according to a report made by the Tasta Joint-Stock Society.

Military expenditures accounted for 42 per cent of the total, followed by economic expenditures—13 per cent, expenditures on social programmes and culture—ten per cent, foreign economic activities and bodies of power and administration—ten per cent, target programmes—four per cent and servicing foreign and domestic debt—four per cent.

The stabilising fund created to finance Federal programmes proved unable to keep the sinking Soviet economy afloat.

By December 1, 1991, the fund received only 33.4 billion roubles instead of 59.7 billion roubles as was originally

planned. Bank credits and budget payments accounted for 78.4 per cent of this sum, the report said. [passage omitted]

Further on Budget Deficit

LD1001103192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2051 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (Biznes-TASS)—The growth in state expenditures, which was not provided for by necessary increases in revenue, led to a considerable increase in the domestic debt of the former USSR. During the 1986-1990 period the debt grew fourfold, and by the beginning of the current year totalled 627.7 trillion rubles [R] (including budget debts to banks based on disparities in agricultural prices of R61.6 trillion), a report from the "Tasta" information and analysis service points out.

In the first nine months of 1991, the state debt increased by R367.8 trillion and by 1 November had reached R995.5 trillion. Over 90 percent of the debt is bank credits to cover budget expenditures.

In apportioning the domestic debt between the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the authors of the report believe they will have to take a number of factors into account: the volume of national income, the size of the population, and the value of basic assets.

The report contains a calculation of a possible distribution of the domestic debt of the former USSR taking into account transfer factors and with the aid of specially developed integrated criteria.

A full account of the report "The financial situation of the Soviet Union: Results of the Final Year," which has been prepared based on official data, may be obtained from the "Tasta" joint-stock company in Moscow (Tel: (095) 290-44-68, FAX (095) 203-30-49, TELEX 411186).

Despite Growth in Profits, Slump 'Worsening'

LD1001113492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2031 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (Biznes-TASS)—Despite a growth in profits in terms of rubles, the slump in the economy of the former Soviet Union is worsening. This paradoxical situation is noted by the authors of a report issued by the "Tasta" information-analysis service.

Industry accounts for over 75 percent of the national economy's total profits. Moreover, the industry profit growth rate considerably outstrips that indicator's growth rate for the national economy as a whole.

The nominal industry profit increase of 131 trillion rubles [R], or by 2.2 times, did not result in any corresponding growth in enterprises' purchasing power since there were simultaneous rises in the prices of materials, labor, credit, and so on. Wholesale prices of finished products and of the materials consumed by the sector rose by 2.2 times. Moreover, profits increased by R140 trillion through price rises, but fell by R9 trillion owing to a decline in the volume of production and to cost increases.

The relationship between enterprises and the budget has changed. Payments to the budget made by enterprises and organizations in 1990 amounted to some 37 percent of their profits, but fell to 34 percent in January-September 1991, the figure being 33 percent in Russia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and about 40 percent in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

The CIS member states are unlikely to stabilize these interrelationships without freedom of prices, freedom of producers, and freedom of competition.

The report "The Financial Situation of the Soviet Union: Results of the Final Year," compiled from official data, can be obtained in full from the "Tasta" joint-stock company in Moscow (Telephone (095) 290-44-68, FAX (095) 203-30-49, TELEX 411186).

Aeroflot Introduces New International Tariffs

LD1001035392 Moscow TASS in English 2002 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Nikita Marunov]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—As of January 10, 1992 Aeroflot will introduce new fares for international flights which, according to the Civil Aviation Commercial Authority, will not affect the citizens of countries other than those in the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. Georgia, Latvia and Estonia are treated like the CIS members under the conditions of the new fares.

According to the new rules, Commonwealth citizens will now have the option of paying either combined fares (15 per cent in hard currency plus the hard currency rouble equivalent of the amount due in US dollars at the Central Bank rate of exchange) or the rouble equivalent of fares expressed in the US dollars. In the first case, passengers will be able to make their reservations six months before the flight, in the second—only 45 days prior to the trip.

To sweeten the pill, Aeroflot has promised discounts of up to 90 per cent for the combined fares and 75 per cent for the rouble fares. All discounts lifted earlier come back into force, according to the Aeroflot commercial authority. Passengers who had bought their tickets before January 10 will not have to pay more for their tickets, Aeroflot said.

Legal

Individual States' Oaths Deemed 'Untenable'

LD0901143892 Moscow TASS in English 1353 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—"The taking by servicemen of a new military oath of allegiance to the peoples of individual sovereign states is untenable from legal point of view," Chief of the Legal Department of the Chief Military Procurator's Office, Justice Colonel Leonid Smertin told TASS today.

In his opinion, the Commonwealth heads of state should legally rid the servicemen, particularly officers, of the previous oath, before offering them to take a new one. It ought to be noted that the USSR law on universal military duty has now become invalid and men will be called up in keeping with new legislative acts. Moreover, the Commonwealth heads of state council must immediately decide whether there will be a single military oath for the joint Commonwealth Armed Forces, or republican armies will henceforth swear allegiance only to their own people. This must be legislatively decided. We also need new laws on punishment for military crimes, on pensions to servicemen, etc. Hence, the optimal version for the parliaments of Commonwealth states would be to adopt a common law on the status of servicemen in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Media

TASS Carries Moscow Press Review for 10 Jan

LD1001072592 Moscow TASS in English 0656 GMT 10 Jan 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Today's press focuses on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. PRAVDA, commenting on Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's intention to subordinate the Fleet "to the Ukrainian people" points out that the dispute between Ukraine and Russia is taking place with other Commonwealth member-states waiting for the outcome in silence.

The newspaper expresses concern over the controversy: "A real threat is looming that a squall of political ambitions will topple the Commonwealth house that has yet to be completed as it is. This cannot be permitted, or else irreversible damage will be done. There is only one way out—the leaders of the Commonwealth member-states, above all Russia and Ukraine must display wisdom, flexibility and ability to reach a sensible compromise solution."

The press covers Russian President Boris Yeltsin's tour of Russian cities and his meetings with local authorities and people. The newspaper TRUD cites a TASS report saying Yeltsin conveyed through Admiral Chernavin, commander-in-chief of the Soviet Navy, a message to all Black Sea Fleet ship commanders assuring them that they are under the Russia president's protection and telling seamen not to take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

"Division of the Navy means destruction," the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) says on this score. The newspaper published a report about a news conference held by Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander-in-chief of the Black Sea Fleet. Kasatonov told journalists that despite the complexity of the situation, the Fleet is "controllable, combat ready and subordinate to the commander-in- chief of the Navy and the supreme commander of the Commonwealth Armed Forces.".

The newspaper reports that the republican movement of the Crimea organised a rally in Sevastopol to protest against the planned transfer of the Black Sea Fleet to Ukraine.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes a selection of letters and reports under the heading "is this the way to reform Armed Forces?".

All newspapers carry reports by TASS and their own correspondents about the situation in Georgia and South Ossetia.

Armenia has granted Zviad Gamsakhurdia a shelter, not a political asylum, the newspaper TRUD says. Chairman of the Armenian parliament's Commission for Self-Government Hosrov Arutyunyan said in an exclusive interview with TRUD that "neither Zviad Gamsakhurdia, nor the new Georgian leaders have approached the leadership of Armenia to clarify the problem of the ousted president's further sojourn in Armenia".

The Russian Government banned, from January 10, exports out of Russia of "consumer goods in short supply and some food products," newspapers report, suggesting the measure had to be taken in response to similar bans imposed by other republics.

PRAVDA publishes a report about a session of the Moscow City Council which discussed the food supply problem. On Thursday [9 January], Yuriy Luzhkov announced the resignation of the city government he headed. The newspapers carry reports about Russian people's reaction to free prices.

A PRAVDA contributor discusses aspects of transition to a market and laments that the switchover is taking place in a landslide, without due preparation. The need to make the rouble convertible is stressed in particular, as the writer believes that only making the rouble an international means of payment will make possible full-scale commodity exchange to begin with the world community, as well as create incentives for work and expanded commodity reproduction within the country.

"We will not be silent," the leader of the Russian Free Trade Union Federation Igor Klochkov says in RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA. "If the government ignores this statement by trade unions, we will resort to collective action". The trade union centre urges tougher control over the distribution network outlets and the public catering system. It insists that a wider range of food products should be sold at fixed prices.

"We are facing a bitter period in which to assess new realities and work out a clear-cut understanding of russia's national interests. We have yet to realize that with the loss of

the Union Russia has joined the club of second-rate countries, deeply in debt and begging for more," Yuriy Glukhov says in an article headlined "Dilemmas of Russian Diplomacy" published in PRAVDA.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes a report from Kabul which says that despite the fact that the Moscow-Washington agreement on ending military supplies to Afghanistan went into effect in January, a long path has yet to be traversed to attain durable peace in that country.

Moscow newspapers carry foreign press reports about the reaction to the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the situation in the new community, the developments in Yugoslavia, the Middle East settlement and economic news.

International Affairs

Yeltsin Urges Black Sea Fleet To Shun Oath

LD0901180192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of Russia has urged the Black Sea Fleet to avoid taking the oath of allegiance to Ukraine. President Yeltsin sent the message with the commander in chief of the Navy, Admiral Vladimir Chernavin. He said that the commanders of the ships of the Black Sea Fleet enjoyed the republican president's protection, and he said he was certain that nobody would take the Black Sea Fleet away from Russia.

Rejects Ukrainian Claim to Fleet

PM0901214792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 1

[RIA correspondent report under the general heading "Is It Necessary to Reform the Armed Forces This Way?"]

[Text] Moscow—At the airport on 8 January, just before leaving on his working visit around the Russian Federation, President Boris Yeltsin gave an interview to an RIA correspondent. Concerning the Ukrainian leadership's actions with regard to the Armed Forces and the Black Sea Fleet, in particular, the president stressed that the Fleet—as part of the strategic forces—comes under the unified command of the CIS states. "At least, the Fleet is not Ukrainian," Yeltsin added.

Ukraine Spokesman on Armed Forces Dispute

PM0901200192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 2

[Interview with Vladimir Krizhanovskiy, authorized representative of Ukraine in the Russian Federation, conducted by Nikolay Burbyga under the general heading "Legendary Sevastopol Shall Not Fall...To Whom?"; place and date not given—first two paragraphs and final paragraph are Burbyga commentary]

[Text] Concern was expressed at the briefing for Soviet and foreign correspondents which the authorized representative of Ukraine in the Russian Federation held on 9 January.

The reason for this, as was stated at the briefing, was the reaction of the mass media to the Ukrainian government's decision to create its own armed forces and the appeal issued by Leonid Kravchuk, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, to servicemen to make their own personal choice and make up their mind regarding further performance of service. According to Vladimir Krizhanovskiy, authorized representative of Ukraine in the Russian Federation, the subjective interpretation of this event in the press and on television could lead to unpredictable consequences.

[Krizhanovskiy] Ukraine is virtually accused of having departed from the Minsk agreements, but that is a lie. Here for some reason they forget to mention that the Agreement of the Council of Heads of States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the Armed Forces and Border Troops notes that Commonwealth states confirm their legitimate right to create their own armed forces. Also, within two months they are to examine and decide jointly with the commander in chief of the Armed Forces the question of the procedure for the command of general-purpose forces in the light of the national legislations of states and the consistency of the Commonwealth states' exercise of the right to create their own armed forces. For Ukraine, this applies as of 3 January 1992. So what, then, has Ukraine violated, and what accords has it not observed?

[Burbyga] As far as I am aware, the dissension among servicemen was caused by the appeal that they make a choice and make up their minds regarding further performance of service...

[Krizhanovskiy] What's bad about that? There is an army on our state's territory. Whom should it serve if not the people of that state?

[Burbyga] But, for example, an Uzbek or Kazakh will not want to swear an oath of allegiance to "another" state? What is to be done with them and their families?

[Krizhanovskiy] There is nothing dreadful here either. Before issuing such an appeal, Ukraine made good preparation and worked through many questions legislatively. And here paramount importance was attached to the question of the social protection of servicemen who agree to serve. I am thinking of the Laws "On the Social Protection of Officers" and "On Defense" and the "Statute on the Procedure for Manning and on Financial and Pension Provision"... Ukraine has gone ahead on these questions. As far as the oath is concerned, however, no one is making anyone take it by force. As of today more than 6,000 servicemen have sworn the oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine (note, not to Ukrainians).

But you are right, some have refused. That is perfectly understandable. An air regiment was on the point of refusing to take the oath, but when people were given explanations and the laws pointed out, the resistance fell away. The bulk of those who have refused to take the oath are enlisted men, the reason being that they want to serve closer to home. In view of this, everything has been done promptly and without bureaucratic delay to ensure that their wishes are met as quickly as possible...I repeat, an army in a state should actually serve that state. Otherwise, you have legal and moral nonsense.

[Burbyga] But, as recent events have shown, the biggest protest among officers was caused by the the Ukrainian leadership's decision to take the Black Sea Fleet under its command. The Fleet commander, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, has refused to carry out the Ukrainian president's demand, and Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov has also protested these actions. How, in your view will events develop?

[Krizhanovskiy] The question is indeed not an easy one. Yet it should not be decided, as I see it, on the pages of newspapers or by generals and admirals.

What is happening now? Real hysteria has arisen over the Black Sea Fleet. It has reached the point where people have begun calculating, and that includes on the pages of IZVESTIYA, what nationalities and how many of such serve in the Fleet, although national affiliation has never been regarded as paramount by Ukraine. But even if you do formulate the question that way, more than 30 percent of the officers are Ukrainians, not 19 percent, as claimed, while the figure for ordinary seamen and petty officers is more than 60 percent, not 30 percent. But that, I repeat, is not the main factor. The desire of sailors to swear the oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine has been taken into consideration by the government. But this is being blocked by the Fleet command, headed by Admiral Kasatonov, which has disregarded the results of the referendum, when the majority of sailors, including Russian sailors, voted for Ukrainian independence. Why did they make that choice? They did so because they believe that Ukraine will provide them with social protection. [Krizhanovskiy ends]

Today, in Krizhanovskiy's view, the only correct solution is to desist from fueling emotions. All questions connected with the Army should be tackled by politicians, and in no circumstances by the actual military. The authorized representative of Ukraine reported that officers serving in the Moscow [Military] District and other districts plus students at military academies are today asking him to be sent to serve in Ukraine. He would not want this process of "moving" military men to start on a global scale...

Ukrainian Envoy Explains Republic's Position

LD0901194592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] A news conference has taken place at the Ukraine's permanent mission in Moscow. The Ukrainian representatives attempted to explain the republic's stance on military issues. Our special correspondent, Vyacheslav Osipov, was at the news conference.

[Osipov] Having mastered well the principle that attack is the best method of defense, Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy, the Ukraine's permanent representative in Moscow, from the very outset accused the press of whipping up hysteria around the republic.

[Begin Kryzhanovskiy recording] In our foreign policy, issue number one for us is relations with Russia. The Ukraine does not entertain the thought of having bad relations with Russia. We are astonished at the fact that the mass media and a few leaders are trying to spoil these relations. We are even somewhat offended here by a formulation being used by a number of leaders, for instance by Mr. Shakhnovskiy from the Moscow mayor's office: The expulsion of servicemen from the Ukraine. The Ukraine is not expelling anyone. All this is being done on an absolutely voluntary basis. Absolutely no one is being forced to do anything. If necessary, the Ukraine will assist in resolving some questions, even including the transfer of servicemen, but there is even no such concept as expulsion. This is a term that completely contradicts what the Ukraine's leadership and its military department stand for. [end recording]

[Osipov] One could agree with these words if it were not for the example of what was meted out to the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Kasatonov, who for a second time refused to swear an oath of allegiance. Apparently he has been forced to leave both the Ukraine and his post. At any rate, this will be explained by the admiral himself tomorrow, when he holds a news conference. For the time being, the Ukrainian side has stated openly that the Black Sea Fleet is not a strategic unit. Most ships are obsolete and should be written off. Appealing on the basis of the 1983 Vienna agreements on the possession of property, the Ukraine intends to take the Black Sea squadron and three military districts fully under its control, thus reducing—as was said—Russia's military burden.

[Begin Kryzhanovskiy recording] Knowing that some 60-70 percent of servicemen doing their service on the Ukraine's territory are non-Ukrainians, the Ukraine therefore has decided to take this economic burden upon itself in reforming the groupings deployed on its territory. In this way, the Ukraine fully takes upon itself the sociolegal guarantees for servicemen, both those doing their service on the Ukraine's territory and those who will be demobilized. We do not need this grouping with a view to arming ourselves, but on the contrary, in order to reform and reduce this grouping, at our expense, to the minimum required. I have to add that we now are making the decision not to have any ground troops along the territory, along the border with Russia. [end recording]

[Osipov] In conclusion, the Ukraine's representatives stressed that the present clashing of swords over the republic's military concept is pointless. There is no need to make this into a problem. It is necessary to get accustomed to something else as well—namely to the breakup of the Union—and to examine in a civilized manner the disputed obstacles that are arising. However, the issue of the fate of the Black Sea Fleet was never explained. If all former republics took part in setting it up, then why is it only the Ukraine that is laying claim to it?

Krasnoyarsk To Refuse Ukrainian Nuclear Waste

LD0901144892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The presidium of the Krasnoyarsk Kray soviet of people's deputies has sent a warning to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk with regard to a possible refusal to accept waste from Ukrainian nuclear stations for storage.

Soviet Chairman Vyacheslav Novikov called this measure an enforced one. He recalled that after Kravchuk was elected the Siberians asked that a proposal be considered with regard to mutual deliveries of raw

materials and goods. However, a month has passed, and Ukraine remains silent. Siberia has been dutifully accepting nuclear waste from the Ukraine, and the latter has ignored its obligations.

Thus, if Ukraine continues to keep silent, as of 15 January the Siberians intend to send back the waste from nuclear power stations. You will agree that this is a strong argument.

'Miserable Conditions' for Community in Latvia

LD1001062892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian community in Latvia is in miserable condition, according to Andrey Fedorov, adviser to the Russian vice president. On Aleksandr Rutskoy's request he has acquainted himself with the problems of the Russian-speaking inhabitants in the Baltic republics. According to Fedorov, he made certain that, if the opening of a Russian embassy here is delayed for another month or two, it will be a crime with regard to people who want to be under Russian juridical protection and who want to have a channel for relations with Russia.

Churkin Holds News Conference, Notes Policies

Announces CIS Conference

OW0901194592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1829 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday (January 10), the Commonwealth foreign ministers will meet in Moscow, Vitaliy Churkin announced on Wednesday [8 January] at the Russian Foreign Ministry's press centre. The conference will concentrate on the preparations for a conference of the Council of the Heads of State and of the Council of the Heads of Governments. The foreign ministers are expected to discuss military-political problems including the ratification of the START Treaty and of the treaty on conventional armaments in Europe. They will also discuss the future utilization of the former Soviet Union's property abroad, as well as the possibility of holding consultations on foreign-policy problems.

Mr. Churkin said that on January 9, Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Andrey Kozyrev, received US Ambassador to the USSR, Mr. Robert Strauss. Among the topics discussed were the situation in the Middle East, the multi-lateral conference on settling the situation in the Middle East to be held in Moscow on January 28 and 29, and the military aspects of the Commonwealth's policies. The two officials also discussed prospects for setting up a joint commission of the Russian parliament and of the U.S. Congress, involving representatives of the two countries' competent bodies, that would check reports on the availability of information in this country about the Americans who were reported missing in different wars, including the wars in Vietnam and Korea.

Answering journalists' questions, Mr. Churkin flatly rejected allegations about the continuing supplies of military equipment from Russia to Yugoslavia, but confirmed the sales of arms to Iran within the framework of the earlier reached agreements.

Discusses Bush-Yeltsin Meeting

LD0901200992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin confirmed today that Boris Yeltsin will attend the summit meeting of the UN Security Council member-countries, scheduled for the end of January.

He also said that at the same time the Russian and U.S. sides are studying the possibility of arranging a separate meeting between Boris Yeltsin and George Bush in New York.

Assesses Georgia, Human Rights

LD0901155592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1451 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksey Luzin]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (TASS)—Strict respect for human rights and basic democratic freedoms—this is precisely what will determine the nature of relations between the Russian Federation and Georgia, Vitaliy Churkin, representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated at a briefing today.

He also noted that in the last few days, the peoples of the Russian Federation have observed with pain and alarm the drastic exacerbation of the political struggle in Georgia, which has brought casualties and destruction in its wake. The Russian Foreign Ministry has addressed an appeal to all the political forces in the republic to strictly take the path of rejecting violence, of finding a peaceful solution to the problems facing the country. We are convinced, Vitaliy Churkin noted, that this alone corresponds to the interests of Georgia and allows it to take a worthy place in the community of civilized states.

Views 'New Security' in Asia-Pacific

LD0901164992 Moscow TASS in English 1629 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—"A new political line of the United States has begun taking shape" in the Asia-Pacific region during U.S. President George Bush's recent visit to this region, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin said on Thursday [9 January].

He said Russia "has welcomed with understanding and satisfaction the positive approach of the U.S. leadership towards the expediency of international efforts to build a new security system in the Asia- Pacific region".

Russia is ready to cooperate with all countries in the region, including the United States, to build this system, Churkin said. He added that both countries will eventually switch from military-political activities in the region to diplomatic and economic cooperation.

Speaking about the United States' decision to transfer some of its military units to Singapore, Churkin stressed the issue should be solved jointly by both countries, which have proclaimed their adherence to the idea of equal security for all countries in the region.

Eyes Mideast Conference, SFRY Monitors

LD0901160792 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Aleksey Luzin and Viktor Runov]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—Although a spokesman from the Russian Foreign Ministry denied rumours that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait offered to finance the Middle East conference scheduled in Moscow for January 28-29, he said the country would welcome foreign financial aid on the matter.

Vitaliy Churkin expressed hope the conference will take place as scheduled.

The spokesman said Russia responded positively to a request of the U.N. secretary general to send two or three military observers to join the liaison group which will help monitor a ceasefire in Yugoslavia.

The officers, who will be subordinate to the headquarters of the Yugoslav Army and of the Croatian National Guard, will not take part in any military actions. The Russian leadership hopes U.N. officers will help observe the ceasefire agreement reached in Sarajevo and will promote a peaceful settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, the spokesman said.

116 countries recognised Russia as an independent state, Churkin informed, adding that Robert Strauss acted as an official U.S. ambassador to Russia for the first time on Thursday [9 January].

Strauss and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met today to discuss the upcoming Middle East conference in Moscow, as well as military problems of the new Commonwealth, including control over the nuclear arsenal, Churkin disclosed.

Reviews Afghan Conflict

LD0901143292 Moscow TASS in English 1347 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Viktor Runov]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—Russia has fully fulfilled its pledges to stop arms shipments to the Afghan Army and hopes the move will promote a peaceful settlement in the country, Vitaliy Churkin, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, told reporters on Thursday [9 January].

The former Soviet Union and the United States agreed last September to quit arms deliveries to the warring sides in Afghanistan.

Russia hopes other countries involved in the conflict, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in particular, will follow suit, Churkin said, adding Afghan mujahidin should welcome the Russian move by freeing all Soviet prisoners of war.

Kozyrev on Commonwealth, Military, U.S. Talks

LD1001111492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0948 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Igor Peskov and Leonid Tinmofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—An acceptable solution to the military issue that observes all international obligations will be found by the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. This hope was expressed by Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in conversation with journalists prior to the Moscow meeting of the heads of the CIS countries foreign ministries that opened today.

The minister spoke in favor of jointly using the armed forces of the former Union in the transitional period. He did not agree with the view of several politicians that the CIS is falling apart. According to Kozyrev, the Commonwealth is "moving step by step toward cooperation."

Answering a question about the upcoming meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President George Bush within the framework of the UN Security Council session, Andrey Kozyrev noted that it is of great significance since the two leaders will be discussing global problems. A full-scale summit is also to be held in Washington, he said.

Talking about the conference of Western countries to provide aid to CIS member states, which is scheduled to be held in New York, the Russian minister expressed the opinion that it will talk about dividing the obligations of and coordinating Western "donors." "We will endeavor to do our part of the work even though we have not been invited to the conference," he stressed. "We will provide information on what we need and ideas on the mechanism for distributing aid." Andrey Kozyrev expressed gratitude to George Bush and James Baker for organizing the conference.

Discusses Disarmament With Baker

LD0901215192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2018 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (TASS)—A regular telephone call between Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was held today, the Russian Foreign ministry has reported.

The ministers reconfirmed their intention to conduct a multilateral meeting on the Near East in Moscow on 28-29 January, and also examined several specific details of its preparations and conduct. Kozyrev and Baker exchanged views on their contacts with the interested sides in the Near East peace settlement process.

The American side confirmed the dates for the arrival in Moscow of a group of experts on disarmament issues headed by first deputy secretary of state, Reginald Bartholomew. It has been decided to hold consultations between him and Russian representatives 15-17 January.

Kozyrev and Baker also examined at the level of specifics the preparations now underway for holding a session of the UN Security Council at summit level in New York at the end of January.

KGB General on U.S. Embassy Bugging Devices

LD1001115192 Moscow TASS in English 1116 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 10 (TASS)—"The scheme of cable lines and eavesdropping devices in the building of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, handed over to the Americans by Vadim Bakatin, chief of the former KGB, are no longer state secrets," chief of the public relations centre of the former USSR KGB Major-General Aleksandr Karbaynov said in an interview, shown today in the morning TV news programme.

"A few years ago, American specialists discovered cable lines in the walls of the embassy and had to cut them," Karbaynov said. "The entire system was put out of action and could not be restored. This was reported to ex-president of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev and to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. A commission was set up to declassify these documents. The decision to transfer the schemes to the Americans was made with the participation of the USSR and Russian Foreign Ministries," the general said.

Touching on the possibility of establishing cooperation among the special services of the Commonwealth states, Karbaynov stressed that such cooperation was inevitable, since crime and espionage knew no borders. Exchanges of information are not ruled out, as well as the planning and carrying out of joint actions. Cooperation among these special services will apparently be regulated by a treaty on the collective security of the Commonwealth states, which, the general believes, will be signed after the Commonwealth is politically formalized.

IZVESTIYA Asseses Bush Visit to Japan

PM1001114592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Sergey Agafonov report: "G. Bush's Visit Continues"]

[Excerpts] Tokyo—President Bush's sudden fainting fit, which happened 8 January during an official dinner at the Japanese prime minister's residence, kept everybody in a state of tension all night. The film clip recording the sad episode, in which the 67-year-old U.S. leader, surrounded by bodyguards and close aides, fell off his seat onto the floor and could not get up again for almost five minutes, was shown dozens of times on television. [passage omitted]

I do not know how much the tone of items in the U.S. and Japanese mass media will now change following the announcement about gastric flu, but prior to this the appraisals of the Tokyo round of Bush's trip were extremely critical and even harsh. The functions of a "go-getter" for U.S. exports, which the President has taken upon himself, and the exhausting wrangles involved in "forcing" a trade concession from the Japanese, have not enhanced Bush's image.

The Bush administration cannot admit this, however, and therefore the "positive results" of the Presidential mission and indicators of its success are being scrupulously enumerated. Official representatives of the U.S. side are first and foremost including among these the agreed document about the plans for economic development, in which the Japanese are promising to ensure that their economy grows at a rate of 3.5 percent in the coming fiscal year, thus taking upon themselves the burden of the "locomotive" that will pull the entire Western economy out of the current depression.

As was predicted, the economic achievements of Bush's visit do not go beyond the realm of short-term politics. As far as other matters at the talks were concerned, these were touched upon "synoptically" in Tokyo—issues to do with coordinating actions to establish a new world order, ecological problems, the fight against drugs, and so on were brought together in the "Tokyo Declaration," which contains very high-sounding but vague formulations that nevertheless reflect the desire of both sides to act in unison.

These problems, incidentally, included that of our poor Fatherland—Bush and Miyazawa expressed their friendly support for the course of reforms and their wish for the situation to stabilize in the former Union; they also reached an understanding that questions of aid to the former USSR should be closely coordinated. As has long been customary, the U.S. President supported Japanese "national aspirations" to the "northern territories."

A news conference, dinner with the emperor, and departure are still to come. But this will be on 10 January. But in the meantime—"the President is fine, the visit goes on..."

Japanese Prepare for Far East Port Development

LD1001035992 Moscow TASS in English
2029 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Tokyo January 9 TASS—Japanese companies are prepared to actively participate in a plan to develop a transport network in the Russian Far East, proposed recently by the Russian Transport Ministry, Takashi Miyamoto said today in an interview with the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency.

Even opening Vladivostok will not compensate for the sharply rising volumes of bilateral cargo shipments, stated Miyamoto, president of Japan's "Deeuro Container Transport", which specialises in transcontinental shipments. He intends to propose to the Russian authorities at their forthcoming working consultations in Khabarovsk late January 1992 to construct two more ports in Posyet and Slavyanka. In addition to this, he considers it necessary to start new ferry services between Niigata and Russian Far Eastern ports for railway wagons.

Kola Peninsula Could Be 'Submarine Graveyard'

AU0901160492 Paris AFP in English
1548 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Oslo, Jan 9 (AFP) — A large part of the former Soviet submarine fleet, now in Russian hands, will be scrapped by the end of 1992, a Norwegian nuclear energy official said Thursday [9 January].

The submarines, some with nuclear reactors, are old and outdated and likely to be disassembled at a Kola shipyard or at the Severodvinsk yard in Arkhangelsk, Knut Gussgard, director of Norway's State Board for Nuclear Energy told the Norwegian News Agency.

The number of submarines to be dismantled is uncertain, but Ingmar Oldberg from Sweden, an expert on eastern European affaires, told the Swedish national news agency (TT) that the former Soviet fleet, including diesel submarines, is to be reduced by 185 units by the year 2000.

Gussgard is worried that the Russians might not dispose of the nuclear waste properly when separating the reactors from the hulls.

Today highly radioactive waste, mainly the reactor fuel rods, is stored for a time on board ships in Murmansk harbour before being transported to the city of Chelyabinsk in the Ural. But other kinds of waste, so-called medium active nuclear waste, might be dumped at sea. This is probably what happened to the waste from the nuclear icebreaker Lenin, which was recently scrapped, Gussgard said. Local authorities are planning underground storage for nuclear waste, but there is disagreement as to where this can be done, he added.

The former Soviet TASS news agency recently wrote that Murmansk authorities had stopped dismantling two nuclear submarines at a shipyard close to a housing area. The military had not warned the population about the operation, the agency said. The two submarines were transferred from the Pacific Fleet, triggering fears that the Kola area would serve as a large-scale submarine graveyard.

Indian Delegation Arrives in Moscow for Talks

LD0901185692 Moscow TASS in English
1431 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] Delhi January 9 TASS—The whole complex of issues on trade and economic, military and technical cooperation between Russia and India will be discussed at talks, which will be held in the course of the forthcoming visit of the Indian governmental delegation to Moscow. The Indian delegation is also likely to establish contacts at the top level with the Russian leadership, according to sources from the Indian Foreign Ministry.

Major importance is attached to the work on the draft of a political treaty on relations between India and Russia, which is planned to be signed during an official visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Delhi. Meetings and talks are expected to lay the foundation for the continuation and further development of mutual relations between India and Russia in various fields.

The Indian delegation will be headed by J.N. Dixit, secretary on foreign affairs of the Indian Foreign Ministry.

Finnish Ambassador Views Cooperation Prospects

LD0901162992 Moscow TASS in English
1407 GMT 9 Nov 92

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—"Finland has changed the status of its embassy in Moscow. Now it is the Finnish Embassy in Russia," Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayerynen informed his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev in a letter addressed to him.

According to information received today from the information directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the letter was forwarded to Kozyrev on January 8 by Finnish Ambassador Heikki Talvitie, who was received at his request by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Boris Kolokolov.

The latter highly praised the Finnish representative for the prompt and constructive settlement of key legal problems, stemming from the Union's disintegration and the emergence of an independent and sovereign Russian Federation.

The ensuing talk focused on pending official Russian-Finnish contacts. The sides discussed the forthcoming visit to Finland by state secretary, First Vice-premier of the Russian Federation Gennadiy Burbulis. "The sides regard this meeting as a major political event in our

relations," the report of the information directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry says.

Ryzhov Named Ambassador to France

PM0901144492 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jan 92 p 3

[Untitled report from RIA, TASS column]

[Text] By a decree of the Russian president dated 4 January, the rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary is conferred on Ivan Silayev. On the same day Boris Yeltsin appointed Yuriy Ryzhov ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the French Republic.

Federation Affairs

Different Reasons Given for Rutskoy's Absence

PM1001111592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 1

[I. Chernyak report: "Rutskoy Has Simply Decided To Take a Rest"]

[Text] The news was brought by delegates of the Officers' Assembly of an Odessa Military District garrison. They had flown to Moscow specially, to see Rutskoy, whom they trust, to discuss the tension in the district on the eve of the taking of oaths of allegiance to the Ukraine. But they were told that Rutskoy was in hospital: heart failure [ne vyderzhalo serdtse; literally—his heart could not stand it; usual term for heart failure is serdechnaya nedostatochnost].

A phone call to the vice president's office in the Kremlin did not clarify matters. "Yes, Aleksandr Vladimirovich has not been at work since 4 January," the man on duty said. "But nothing serious has happened to him. Write that the vice president has simply decided to rest after his travels; we hope that he will be back on the 12th."

Burbulis on Cutting Secret Service Abroad

LD0901232692 Moscow TASS in English 2303 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Russia plans to cut the number of secret service agents in its missions abroad, according to first deputy prime minister Gennadiy Burbulis.

Meeting Russian Foreign Ministry officials today to discuss reforms in the Foreign Service, Burbulis said that secret services working under cover in embassies in foreign countries will be slimmed down to minimum levels required to maintain state security.

The move is line with the changing situation in the world, he said.

He called on Russian diplomats to be efficient and patriotic.

Burbulis Cited on Foreign Ministry Staffing

LD1001001192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows Burbulis speaking to correspondents] The staff of the Foreign Ministry is concerned about who will be working [words indistinct] and generally in the Foreign Ministry. Today the secretary of state of Russia was asked questions by diplomats. Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis today told staff of the former USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs that their future will be resolved in the next month. The criterion for electing staff to work in the RSFSR Foreign Ministry will be their professionalism.

The new Foreign Ministry of Russia, Burbulis said, also intends to bring order to its relations with the organs of state security which are housed within embassies.

Zhironovskiy Urges Loyalty for Black Sea Fleet

OW0801142292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovsky, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], has urged the sailors of the Black Sea Fleet to remain loyal to Russia and refrain from pledging allegiance to the Ukraine. "No history book mentions Ukrainian naval commanders or victories won by Ukrainian troops. Hundreds of thousands of Russian soldiers paid with their lives for Russia's access to warm seas", said Zhirinovsky in his cable addressed to Admiral Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

"Does the Ukraine really need one-million-strong army and nuclear fleet? With whom do Ukrainian nationalists intend to fight? The answer is clear: with Russia", the leader of the LDP said.

V.Zhirinovsky said he is confident that "the Black Sea Fleet will continue to remain Russia's fleet, the fleet of Russian glory".

Predicts Future World Stability

LD0901163792 Moscow TASS in English 1417 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Palaria]

[Text] Moscow January 9—Prussia can no more be free without Russia than Russia without Prussia, chairman of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told Soviet and foreign journalists here today.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow, Zhirinovskiy said the party he leads responded favourably to a request from the Prussian National Congress to assist it in restoring Prussia within its original boundaries.

Zhirinovskiy said he does not claim the role of a prophet for himself but nevertheless predicted that stability in the world in the 21st century would be guaranteed by a new entente, comprising Russia, Germany, the United States and China.

Zhirinovskiy set out his concept of military reform, favouring an unconditional preservation of unified armed forces and using currency raised by exports of military equipment, excepting nuclear weapons, to finance the economy and the army.

Trade Unions Order Demonstrations for 17 Jan

LD0901150592 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—Russian trade unions strongly protested on Thursday [9 January] against the government's failure to "socially protect the population" after prices were released from state control.

Prices for the main foodstuffs grew by 8-10 times throughout Russia, Igor Klochkov, chairman of the Russian Independent Trade Union Federation, told TASS on Thursday, quoting trade union experts. The absence of any control over the remaining state-set prices puts the poorest of Russians on the brink of famine and misery, he added.

The Trade Union Federation demands the government gives a minimum of social guarantees to the population. It protests against the decision to allow the Russian Economy and Finance Ministry to change the remaining state set prices. This question should be decided jointly by the government and the trade unions, Klochkov said.

The leaders of the federation also suggested that state control should remain on prices of such staples as bread, milk, potatoes and cabbage.

The trade unions intend to organise mass meetings, demonstrations and other actions of protest on January 17 if the government continues to ignore the demands, Klochkov said.

Transport Minister on Consumer Goods Movement

LD0901152992 Moscow TASS in English 1419 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—Russian Transport Minister Vitaliy Yefimov told a press conference here today that the task of setting up stationary control posts to check the export of consumer goods from Russia was a "difficult and partially infeasible problem".

It is common knowledge that the Russian cabinet's decision to restrict the export of consumer goods from the Russian Federation comes into force as of January 10. According to this enactment, the Transport Ministry, along with other departments, is to set up checkpoints on Russian borders, at railway stations, air terminals, marine and river ports within a period of one week. They are intended to prevent the export of about 60 varieties of food products and manufactured goods.

Yefimov told TASS that it was easy to set up checkpoints at air terminals and, jointly with the traffic militia, on automobile roads. "But it is most difficult to do it on railways," he said. We are now "seeking ways to solve this problem". The minister stressed that "officials will not examine every suitcase, belonging to a passenger, but will cut short the export of clearly visible large lots of goods". According to Yefimov, the checkpoints will be staffed "not by transport workers, but officials of special organs".

Turning to the general situation on Russia's transport routes, Yefimov said that "the transport complex is not a catalyser of current production slump in the republic. It is able to cope with the necessary volume of carriages. Moreover,the transport system is short of freight".

Yefimov also said that a meeting of transport ministers from the eleven Commonwealth states was scheduled for January 10. It will discuss the preservation of a single commonwealth transport system, measures to coordinate efforts to ensure effective passenger and freight traffic.

Government Resolution Sets Excise Duty Rates

PM0901135592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[Undated RSFSR Government Resolution "On Excise Tariffs on Individual Categories of Goods" signed by B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In accordance with the RSFSR Law "On Excises," dated 6 December 1991, the RSFSR Government resolves:

1. To ratify and bring into effect from 1 January 1992 excise tariffs on individual categories of goods in amounts according to the appendix hereto.

2. To establish that the excise tariffs on individual categories of goods ratified by the present resolution are applicable to turnover on accounts paid for goods shipped after 1 January 1992.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

Supplement to the RSFSR Government Resolution. Excise Rates on Individual Categories of Goods.

Designation of goods	Amount of excise tariffs (as a percentage of the cost of goods at sale prices)
Pure alcohol	90
Vodka	80
Liqueur and spirits	75
Grape-based wines	46.5

Designation of goods	Amount of excise tariffs (as a percentage of the cost of goods at sale prices)
Brandy	55
Champagne	47.5
Beer	25
Chocolate	40
Sturgeon and salmon caviar, prepared delicacies from expensive varieties of fish and sea food:	40
Tobacco products: Russian-style cigarettes, class one	20
cigarettes, class one	40
filter cigarettes, class two and three	25
cigarettes, class four	14
Passenger cars (except for "GAZ" cars)	25
"GAZ" passenger cars	35
Tires for passenger cars	62
Jewelry (including items with diamonds)	10
Fur products (except children's clothing):	
overcoats, short coats, jackets, throat-wraps, scarfs, capes, and pieces of fur cut to a template of 15 square decimeters or more	35
all-fur headgear	20
collars	10
High-quality porcelain products	30
High-quality crystal products	45
Carpets and machine-made carpet articles:	
two-ply synthetic jacquard and woven "Liroflor"	45
two-ply half-wool jacquard, looped, and Axminster	20
Clothes made of real leather	35

Miners' 21 Billion Ruble Subsidy To Continue

LD0901214292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Russia's vice premier has confirmed that the agreement with the miners to set aside a 21-billion ruble subsidy for coal remains in force, even in the current difficult situation. Subsidies could, in his words, stimulate the development of the industry and make it more efficient.

The agreement signed between the cabinet and the Independent Coalminers' Union concerns both production and social matters. In keeping with this accord the miners' pay has been boosted and will be indexed in accordance with inflation and the rising cost of living.

Agro-Industrial Management Reform Resolution

PM0901143192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[Undated Russian Federation Government Resolution "On Reforming the System of State Management of the Russian Federation's Agro-Industrial Complex" signed by G. Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, under the "Official Section" rubric]

[Text] With a view to creating a system of state management of the Russian Federation's agro-industrial complex in line with the tasks of its functioning in the conditions of implementing agrarian reform, the Russian Federation Government resolves:

1. The following are to be considered the main tasks of organs of state management of the Russian Federation's agro-industrial complex:

the creation of favorable conditions for the efficient development of agriculture and other sectors of the agro-industrial complex;

the implementation of agrarian reform;

the organization of cadre training for the agro-industrial complex;

assistance in developing agrarian science and in disseminating advanced technologies and new management methods.

2. The following system of organs of state management of the Russian Federation's agro-industrial complex is to be formed:

the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture;

the ministries of agriculture of the republics within the Russian Federation;

agriculture administrations (departments) of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations;

food committees of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg;

rayon agriculture administrations (sections).

The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture ensures the unity of the system of organs of state management of Russia's agro-industrial complex, ensures their collaboration, and coordinates their activities.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture is funded out of the republic budget of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, the Councils of Ministers of the republics within the Russian Federation, and the leaders of organs of executive power of krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and rayons are to ensure within one month the creation of the corresponding

organs of state management of the agro-industrial complex and the transfer to them of all the functions of state management from agro-industrial combines, societies, associations, unions, and other economic formations.

3. It is to be laid down that, to fulfill the tasks assigned to them, organs of state management of the Russian Federation's agro-industrial complex perform the following functions:

reproduction of soil fertility and the implementation of measures to protect the environment;

the organization of pedigree breeding;

the organization of seed growing, strain testing, and strain renovation and the production and sales of planting stock;

the development of scientific and technical progress and the organization of propaganda and information about scientific and technical achievements;

backup for technical policy and the organization of an agroservice and of advisory services in the agro-industrial complex;

the organization of cadre training for the agro-industrial complex;

the organization of international scientific, technical, and economic cooperation;

the organization of a juridical service and of legal backup for market relations;

backup for state control over and supervision of compliance with normative acts and the implementation of plant-protection measures, the quality of seed and planting stock, the technical state of the vehicle and tractor pool and equipment, compliance with the veterinary statute and the implementation of measures to safeguard and protect animals, and the implementation of quarantine measures.

Jointly with other organs of state management, the organs of state management of the agro-industrial complex also perform:

elaboration of the main areas of agrarian and food policy;

forecasting of the development and siting of sectors of the agro-industrial complex;

organization of the preparation and implementation of state programs for the social and economic development of regions, territories, and sectors of the agro-industrial complex;

assistance in the development of peasant (private) farms, cooperatives, leasehold, sharehold, and joint ventures and other forms of enterprise, industrial enterprises' subsidiary rural farms, citizens' private subsidiary plots, and collective horticulture and truck gardening;

implementation of state investment policy in the social sphere in the countryside;

backup for eliminating the consequences of natural disasters and other emergency situations;

elaboration of method recommendations and the organization of accountancy, operational and statistical accountability, and auditing work;

elaboration and implementation of a state program, normative acts, and recommendations on privatization;

elaboration of food balances and scientifically substantiated norms and recommendations on nutrition and the study of market conditions in economic regions and zones;

preparation of proposals on the regulation of pricing and credit policies, on taxation, on financial support, and on the formation of the market infrastructure.

4. It is to be laid down that, in order to perform the tasks and functions assigned to them, organs of state management of the Russian Federation's agro-industrial complex use measures of economic regulation defined by the state, including budget appropriations for the development of individual sectors and of enterpreneurship, economic incentives for involvement in state programs, and tax policy.

5. It is to be laid down that leaders of republic organs of state management of the agro-industrial complex of the republics within the Russian Federation are appointed to their post and released from it in accordance with the legislation of these republics and with due regard for the opinion of the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, while leaders of the agriculture administrations (departments) of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations and of the food committees of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg [are appointed and released] by the leaders of the corresponding organs of executive power with due regard for the opinion of the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture.

6. The structure of the ministries of agriculture of the republics within the Russian Federation, of the agriculture administrations (departments) of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations, and of the food committees of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg is approved in the prescribed manner by agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture.

7. Statutes on the ministries of agriculture of the republics within the Russian Federation are approved by the governments of these republics by agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, and statutes on the agriculture administrations (departments) of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations and on the food committees of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are approved by the leaders of the corresponding organs of executive power by agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture.

[Signed] G. Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government

Cossack Chief on Plans To Reunite Former Union

LD0901204992 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 9 Dec 92

[By TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—The revival of Russia is seen as the principal aim of the Union of Russian Cossacks by its Ataman (chief) Aleksandr Martynov.

He told TASS that the Cossack movement was able to play a stabilizing role in the present tense situation. According to his estimates, between 30 million and 35 million Cossacks residing in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Moldova have recently come to the fore as a major influential force.

The Cossacks, who have played a notable military role in Russia since the 14th century, are known as efficient farmers. Under Russian tsars, they guarded the borders and made up the bulk of the Russian Army. Cossacks played a remarkable role in exploring the vast expanses in Siberia and Central Asia and making them part of Russia.

The first Association of Cossacks was recreated in Moscow in January 1990 to later embrace all traditional Cossack troops that ever existed in Russia and become the most numerous movement on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

Martynov said the movement's political task is to reunite the dismantled Union on a new basis. Cossacks do not believe the Commonwealth of Independent States will last. It is already breaking up, Martynov said.

The prompt resurrection of farming on the basis of farming communities traditionally favoured by Cossacks is proposed as a way out of the farming crisis. The countryside is not ready for individual farming, Martynov said. He was skeptical about economic reform measures, including price liberalization which can lead to hoarding excess money by villagers and undermining their ardour in work.

The Cossack Union sees the protection of the state as one of its major tasks. It favours the universal military service and the restoration of the traditional Cossack structure within the armed forces. Cossacks are ready to serve with any arms but not yet in the national guard. They propose to take an active part in settling inter-ethnic conflicts.

Education Ministry's Tasks, Obligations Defined

PM0901152392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jan 92 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Educational Transformations"]

[Text] A resolution on questions pertaining to the Russian Ministry of Education was adopted recently. It lists the ministry's tasks and also outlines the range of its obligations.

According to the new resolution, organizations and establishments serving general educational, vocational, and secondary specialized educational institutions and preschool and extrascholastic establishments, which used to be under the direct jurisdiction of the now abolished RSFSR State Committee for Affairs of Science and Higher Schools and the USSR State Committee for Public Education, will now be subordinate to the Russian Ministry of Education.

A Higher Federal Council for Education, which will tackle the most complex questions of this sector's development, is being organized under the ministry. Another innovation is the Russian Federation Education Innovation Fund, which is being set up, and the Education Stabilization and Development Fund.

Legality of Bakatin 'Treason' Examined

924C0332A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Dec 91 p 2

[Article by Andrey Poleshchuk: "It Is Unlikely Vadim Bakatin Will Be Tried—There Are No Grounds for It"]

[Text] At the news conference that took place on 24 December in the building of the former USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, Anatoliy Oleynikov, former deputy chairman of the Interrepublic Committee for Security, announced that criminal proceedings will not be instituted against Vadim Bakatin for the scandalous incident of handing eavesdropping equipment over to the U.S. ambassador in Moscow.

The explanation is simple: The decision on the transfer was not made by Bakatin himself. This was done by "someone" on a higher level.

A simple explanation is not always an ingenious one, however. In any case, in my opinion, the following questions remain pertinent.

First. Why does Bakatin himself—who, as it turns out, was so gravely put on the spot—remain silent? Will he provide exhaustive explanations for what transpired when he gets back from the two-week vacation he took, rather unexpectedly, on Wednesday, 25 December, after meeting with Yeltsin the day before. Such an incident can finish off the career of a serious politician—which Bakatin undoubtedly is.

Second. As is known, members of the Moscow Soviet's Permanent Commission on Legality, Law and Order, and Protection of Citizens' Rights, together with several state security officers who sided with them, saw in Bakatin's actions the attributes of a crime against the state, covered by point "a," Article 64 of the RSFSR Criminal Code.

People who accuse Bakatin of treason (but is it fair now to blame everything on one man?) refer to the resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the former USSR, dated 28 April 1956 and 3 December 1980, which stipulate the information categories that are considered a state secret to be included in a respective "list." The latter is a top secret document by itself and is beyond the reach of the ordinary reader.

However, thanks to state security officers sympathetic to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, we have been able to leaf through this and two other very interesting documents, namely, Order No. 0055 of the USSR KGB chairman dated 30 March 1981 (signed by Yu. Andropov) and Order No. 0078 of the KGB chairman dated 13 May 1980 (signed by V. Kryuchkov). These orders (the "00" prefix in the order number indicates "top secret") provide clarification to the items on the Council of Ministers' "list" as applied to state security organs. According to state security officers, these orders have not been revoked.

Thus, according to the "list," under point 140 of Part VIII our gift to the Americans may be interpreted as "disclosing information on organization and methods of operations of the organs of state security or internal affairs." This is **top secret information.**

As for the orders issued by the KGB chairmen, the matter acquires an even more criminal tenor, since at least three points of the orders are violated—in particular, Points 3.47, 3.49, and 3.50 of Order No. 0078—that contain information of **extreme importance** and **top secret** information.

Thus, by formal attributes it is clear that the participants in this successfully implemented operation quite easily could be charged under Article 64. However, if one believes A. Oleynikov, there are instances in the practice of "competent organs" when exchange of information or even agents takes place. Moreover, there are even appropriate normative acts in this respect. Thus, this is another reason not to charge V. Bakatin (or someone else) with committing a grave crime against the state.

A person not too familiar with the workings of special services and the fine points of their interrelations, inevitably will come up with one more (perhaps, naive) question. What documents do indeed serve as a normative for the "competent organs": those that are well-known and observed by the majority (such as a Criminal Code) or those recognized only by a narrow circle of people bound together by corporate interests (such as "normative acts")?

By the way, the resolution adopted by the USSR Committee for Constitutional Oversight "On Rules Permitting Using Unpublished Normative Acts on Citizens' Rights, Freedoms, and Duties" (adopted in November 1990) says:

"1. Publishing the act is a mandatory condition for applying the act.

"2. Previously adopted but not published acts are to be published within three months from the date this resolution is adopted. Acts not published by that date cease to remain in force."

So it looks as if the Criminal Code is more important. In any case, as Vladimir Kryuchkov told journalists some time ago, all unmasked traitors from the ranks of state security officers (more than 10 people) have been harshly punished—read, shot by a firing squad under the same Article 64...

By the way, A. Oleynikov's statement in regard to exchange of information and agents may produce a strong effect on the relatives of those subjected to punishment in the past. Because of the organs' maniacal desire to conceal the failures in their work, the families of the condemned usually never learn what specifically their loved ones had been guilty of. The relatives are not permitted to ask "unnecessary" questions during interrogations and visits; the closed session of the Supreme Court's Military Collegium, naturally, takes place without their participation; and the attorneys—who sign an oath of silence—are not a good source of information, either.

Death certificates arriving after the fact with a blank on the "cause of death" line, and lack of data about the resting place of the remains of the person whom they did not allow to be buried, only enhance suspicions: "What if something here is not what it appears to be?.."

Since we have so few secrets left in this country, perhaps, this one, too, could be shared without fear? On the word of honor of those who have a human right to know and are unlikely to spread the information around.

Russians Polled on Trust in Leadership, TV

OW1001115592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0722 GMT 10 Jan 92

["Viewpoint" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **Who is Trustworthy Among the Russian Leadership?**

According to the Data news agency, an opinion poll by the National Public Opinion Studies Center January 4-5 among 1000 respondents in 13 Russian cities showed that 18% mostly trust Aleksandr Rutskoy of Yeltsin's team.

15% trust Ruslan Khasbulatov.

4% sympathize with Yegor Gaydar and also 4%—Sergey Shakhray.

3% trust Gennadiy Burbulis.

3 in 10 said none of the Russsian leadership is trustworthy.

24% were undecided.

Margin of error - 3%. **"VESTI" TV News Program Tops the List**

The same poll found that 27% trust the TV news program "Vesti".

1 in 5 prefer the TSN news program.

14% give preference to the ITA TV news agency's programs, 1 in 10 - the program "Morning", 9% - "600 seconds" by TV reporter Aleksandr Nevzorov.

13% equally trust all the above mentioned programs. 8% trust none of them.

2% learn news from other TV programs.

Margin of error - 3%.

Supreme Soviet

Chairman Khasbulatov Sends Letter to Georgia

LD0901164892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1513 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (TASS)—"We are following with attention the events in Georgia, with which Russia maintains centuries-old truly fraternal relations," a letter from Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, to the Georgian leadership says. The Russian deputies watched with bitterness and disbelief the policies pursued by President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, his violation of human rights, and his suppression of citizens' liberties, the document notes. His stance with respect to South Ossetia, as a result of which some 100,000 Ossetians became refugees, caused particular anxiety. Ruslan Khasbulatov wishes Georgia's leadership success in restoring justice, establishing democracy, and bringing prosperity to its people.

Khasbulatov, Businessmen Discuss Import, Exports

LD1001034292 Moscow TASS in English 2204 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov discussed on Thursday [9 January] the state of the commodities market with Russian entrepreneurs, according to the parliamentary press centre.

Russian entrepreneurs said they needed reasonable guarantees from Russian leaders when obtaining large quantities of foodstuffs and consumer goods from the West. They also said they needed licenses to export raw materials.

Khasbulatov said he is ready to assist them.

According to Khasbulatov, the most difficult task is to withstand the first couple of months of price liberalisation. Later on, Khasbulatov believes, the situation will improve.

Khasbulatov Leaves for Trip to Ryazan Oblast

LD1001091992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0830 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, left for Ryazan Oblast (central Russia) today, where he is to spend two working days. The head of the Russian parliament intends to discuss and resolve on the spot problems arising from land reform, military conversion, and the development of enterpreneurial activity. There will be meetings at farm collectives and at electronics enterprises.

The visit will also include a meeting with the chairmen of the soviets of people's deputies for the non-chernozerm zone. The topic of the meeting is work in conditions of fundamental economic change and the social protection of the population.

Resolution Issued on State Property

LD0901154492 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By unidentified TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—The Russian parliament has issued a resolution on the differentiation of state property. The resolution is aimed at giving a boost to privatisation processes.

The document defines property as being of three types: federal, the state property of Russia's constituent republics, territories, regions, autonomous regions and districts as well as Moscow and St. Petersburg, and municipal property.

Under federal jurisdiction are exclusively facilities that constitute the backbone of the country's national wealth, the resolution points out. The list includes resources of the continental shelf, territorial waters, maritime economic zone, nature reserves and national parks, historico-cultural and national heritage, works of art, and cultural institutions of all-Russia importance.

Federal property includes the state treasury, the equipment and facilities of the Armed Forces, higher learning establishments and research institutions of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Ministries of Education, Science and Technological Policy, and Health.

As far as the defence sector, the producing industry, the fuel and energy sector, transport communications and telecommunication agencies, state-run pedigree cattle and stud farms and some other facilities are concerned, they are likewise under an exclusive authority of the Russian Federation.

Economic enterprises that hold a dominant position on the Russian or local markets of commodities may be transferred

to the possession of republics, territories, regions, autonomous regions and districts, Moscow and St. Petersburg only by a decision of the Russian Government.

The government should coordinate this matter with the state committee on anti-monopoly policy and support of new economic structures.

Large businesses with an average annual cost of fixed assets amounting to more than 200 million roubles or employing more than 10,000 people, nuclear engineering and power engineering enterprises, fishing-industry plants and fur farms may be an object of negotiations.

Health resorts and sanatoria, health care, public education, cultural and sports institutions, hotels, television and radio broadcasting, printing offices, publishing houses, news and telegraph agencies may also be transferred to the possession of republics and administrative-territorial entities of the Russian Federation.

The resolution also defines such a category of property as municipal one. Retail trade and public catering establishments, housing resources and business premises, and passenger transport are brought under the authority of the city and district councils of people's deputies.

Decision To Strip Deputies of Powers Deplored

PM0901102992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Leonid Lagin "Commentary": "Parliament's Gift to Ex-President"]

[Text] By deciding to strip union deputies elected on Russian Federation territory of their powers, the Russian Supreme Soviet has not only passed sentence on its colleagues but has also made the first breach in its own immunity. It has clearly demonstrated how representatives elected by the population can be treated.

All attempts to justify the constitutionality of this act founder on just one argument: The people elected the deputies, and they alone have the right to determine their future fate. While today the Russian parliamentary deputies have not taken this argument into consideration, tomorrow there will be people, for instance in the person of the powerful executive branch, who will justify the need for "their" deputies to disappear from the political scene too.

Republic, oblast, and city deputies right down to village and settlement deputies have been set an example of how they can get even with their senior colleagues. Indeed, what is to stop some sovereign rayon from stripping a Russian deputy elected on its territory of his powers? Just like that, without consulting those who elected him.

Yes, we simply will not learn to respect the rights of others. And a section of the Russian parliament simply will not rid itself of a passion for convulsive movements and harsh expressions. Evidently those who suppose that every deputy who voted in favor of stripping powers most likely had in mind his own specific colleague from his own district are right. Observers attribute the results of the voting on the question of the union deputies' fate to a desire to obtain satisfaction.

However, will the republic deputies finally succeed in pushing union deputies off the political scene? And where will that leave the latter if the former do succeed?

The "soft option" for solving this problem was a good and preferable one in that the Russian legislators acquired supporters in the shape of their former colleagues. The opportunity arose to obtain additional political intellect virtually gratis. This chance was missed, and now Russian legislators have gotten a deeply entrenched opposition consisting of well schooled politicians. Because insults are not forgotten. At best the most talented and capable union deputies will end up in presidential and government structures and from there will begin a covert and overt struggle against the offenders, and at worst they will ensconce themselves in ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev's political salon and will set about forming a shadow cabinet. It should be admitted that the Russian parliament could not have given the ex-president a better gift. And, incidentally, could not have done greater harm to itself.

There is one more substantial point which our parliamentarians did not take into account in their surge of emotion. In taking their colleagues away from politics, they are not capable of taking away their voters. After all, the union deputies include a considerable number of people who are trusted by the people who elected them. Together they went through the most difficult stages of the pivotal time, they remember the breakthroughs at the Union's First Congress of People's Deputies, and they realize that without it there would have been no Russian parliament—the law on electing which, incidentally, was adopted by union deputies. Nobody in the world has ever looked kindly on patricides.

In recent months the Russian parliament's popularity has increased, albeit slowly, thanks to its considered and responsible approach to making important political decisions. The decision to strip the former Union's deputies of their powers cannot be called either considered or responsible.

Regional Affairs

Further on Yeltsin's Tour of Volga Region

Nizhniy Novgorod Agenda Detailed

LD0901163692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, the president of Russia, left for Nizhniy Novgorod this evening. His arrival here coincides with the arrival in the city of 12 heads of administration from oblasts of the Volga region, the Urals, and the

Black Soil zone. It has not been excluded that Boris Nikolayevich will make use of this opportunity to meet his authorized representatives in the provinces.

In Nizhniy Novgorod, the president will pay a visit to a supermarket, the Mytnyy market, and will visit machine builders at the Nizhniy Novgorod Machine Building Works Association.

Yeltsin Cited on Russian Army

LD0901182992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1747 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS special correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Evald Kessariyskiy]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod, 9 Jan (TASS)—Russia will be the last of the republics of the former Union to set up its own Armed Forces, if compelled to do so, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has stated.

After arriving in Nizhniy Novgorod this evening from Ulyanovsk, he talked to townsfolk welcoming him outside the airport building.

Answering a question about whether Russia would have its own army, the president said: "We do not wish to become provocateurs, since, following Russia's lead, each republic will want to have its own army. So we shall show maximum restraint."

Meets With Townspeople

LD1001113892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1046 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod, 10 Jan (TASS)—This morning Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is on a tour of the Volga region, walked about the streets of Nizhniy Novogord talking to the town's inhabitants and visiting shops. The main subject of his conversations with Novgorod residents was price liberalization and the attitude of the town's inhabitants to economic reforms. The President visited the motor vehicle works.

The schedule also includes wreath-laying at the memorial plaque on the building where Academician Andrey Sakharov lived in exile, and also a meeting with the oblast's leadership.

Yeltsin Tour of Saratov, Ulyanovsk Assessed

PM1001145192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 2

[Aleksandr Shinkin report: "Before Patience Runs Out..."]

[Text] Everything has always been done on behalf of the people: good deeds and bad deeds. The perestroyka period is no exception either. In that respect Russian President B. Yeltsin's trip is indicative. Albeit belatedly, he still decided to find out for himself how the residents of the Volga area regard his first steps toward the "bosom of civilization" or, in simpler terms, toward capitalism.

The president himself admitted frankly on setting off for Saratov Oblast: He expected to be "showered with rotten eggs and was greeted with smiles."

The period of tumultuous applause and sense of profound satisfaction has certainly ended. Evidently the patient people only have enough strength left to smile.

However, our correspondent A. Vorotnikov reports that B. Yeltsin's stay in Saratov was not that serene. His bodyguard had difficulty in protecting him from the people at the oblast soviet who were either trying to demonstrate their love and devotion or better convey their troubles and aspirations to the "sovereign's ear." There was also a trenchant discussion about reviving the German autonomous formation in the Volga region. To which B. Yeltsin said with his customary expansiveness:

"In those places that are insufficiently densely populated by Germans—to the extent that they do not consititute the overwhelming majority—no autonomous entity will be established. I guarantee you that as president. The fact that there is a vacant military testing ground in Volgograd Oblast and Marshal Shaposhnikov has handed it over is another matter. Perhaps there will be some kind of national rayon or oblast there in the future. But only when the population there is 90-percent German..."

It is hard to guess at how the Germans will react to that unexpected decision. But they may quite possibly prefer to leave their homeland rather than assimilate the testing ground territory.

With that B. Yelstin left for Ulyanovsk. The day before, the local authorities there—as has been the custom in Rus since time immemorial—granted the people a boon: Prices of certain foodstuffs were reduced. For instance, butter now costs 90 rubles [R] instead of R130 per kilogram. However, our correspondent N. Senchev reported that the townspeople reacted to this with no particular enthusiasm. This "gift" involuntarily reminded them of the well-known parable providing a recipe for happiness. If your home is cramped, bring in a goat, a hog, and a cow. And then get rid of them one by one later...

The Russian president started talking about daily bread as soon as the traditional cottage loaf was presented to him at the aircraft steps. The mood of the Volga people at this highly difficult time for Russia, he told journalists, is a kind of litmus test, a touchstone.

Something else accounts for Boris Yeltsin's desire to grasp the situation that has taken shape in Ulyanovsk: The head of the oblast administration has hitherto not been appointed. The leaders of the democratic movement are furiously opposed to Yu. Goryachev, incumbent chairman of the oblast soviet of people's deputies, who lays claim to this post. On the other hand, it is the people, rural and plant collectives, that are pinning their hopes of the oblast's further development on Goryachev.

This was confirmed once again by workers at Ulyanovsk's aviation industry complex with whom the Russian president spoke in the plant workshops.

Broaching the most painful subject—the liberalization of prices and market relations—Boris Yeltsin repeated several times: The first 6-8 months of this year will be the most difficult for society. It is necessary to be patient. And that will constitute the most effective support for the president. The recent decisions, he said, are "our last chance of setting the economy to rights," "the Russian Government has no other choice."

In response to questions about the Army, B. Yeltsin spoke with with military precision and clarity: "No one will take the Black Sea Fleet away from Russia, Kravchuk included," he said yesterday at an Ulyanovsk aviation industry complex assembly workshop that he visited during his tour of cities in the Volga region. "The Black Sea Fleet was, is, and will be Russian." However Yeltsin did point out that "Russia is trying to develop normal relations with the Ukraine." He recalled: "Our peoples have been together since the times of Kievan Rus and there are now 11 million Russians living in the Ukraine. So, we cannot fall out with the Ukraine."

Commentators who have already had time to comment on Boris Yeltsin's tour of the Volga cities are calling it a courageous step. But I think that this step is as courageous as our people themselves are courageous. At any rate the people did not air any overt dissatisfaction with the Russian Government's economic policy. There is still some patience left. For how long?

Yeltsin 'Shaken' by Saratov Prices

PM1001092192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent Valentina Nikolayeva report: "Will They Listen to B. Yeltsin in the Volga"]

[Excerpt] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has spent nine hours on Saratov soil.

During his brief and often impromptu meetings with the Volga people he was, at his own admission, trying to see how people were reacting to the new socioeconomic situation under the conditions of price liberalization, and what they are undertaking. Explaining the inevitability of price liberalization during the transition to the market, he asked them to "believe their president" and his reforms and to courageously endure temporary difficulties.

At the "Osinovskiy" Sovkhoz the president sought an answer to the question why private farming is still developing only with difficulty. The sovkhoz has now been transformed into a joint-stock farm. Each peasant has received a share of the property and real estate. But people are in no hurry to cut themselves off from their farm—they are afraid that there are too many obstacles in the way of independence. The peasants complained to the president about how hard it is to set up private farms and get loans, and about the lack of equipment. Yeltsin put this down to the continued survival of regional bureaucratic systems. He promised that foreign technology for the production of small tractors was being bought and that this year Russian private farmers will receive the first 100,000 tractors. He reported that he had just signed a decree under which farms and private farmers will sell 40 percent of their produce to the state at market prices.

Perhaps B. Yeltsin's most dramatic meeting was held at the grocery in the town of Engels, which he visited on his way back from the sovkhoz. For more than an hour the customers would not let him leave. In the window display was sausage at 191 rubles [R] a kilo. Stew was R92, sour cream R78, and the store had been trying to sell butter at... R270 a kilo... Who sets these treacherous prices? "Nobody should dictate them—neither the producer enterprises nor the trading system. Only supply and demand," said Yeltsin, who was himself somewhat shaken. He referred to Moscow, where prices, in his view, are nonetheless lower since privatization has gotten under way there.

And the president was able to see for himself just what private ownership is capable of when he visited the Saratov Electrical Unit Association collective enterprise. It is just a year since this major enterprise producing refrigerators became publicly owned and has been working steadily ever since—even against a backdrop of general economic imbalances. Responsive to market conditions, the collective members—who co-own the plant—have started producing another 80 types of quality goods for the people. [passage omitted]

Difficulties of Volga Germans Examined

LD0901141192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Without forecasting the results of Boris Yeltsin's tour of a number of Russian oblasts, one can already assert without hesitation that the problem of Soviet Germans will not be settled in the near future. Judging by the slogans and statements the Russian leader had to face, the attitude of the local authorities and population to the problem of Germans can complicate Russian-German relations. A powerful impulse to their development was given in October during Yeltsin's visit to Bonn. It was in Bonn that the Russian president took upon himself a clear obligation to restore the autonomous republic of Volga Germans. A failure to implement this clause of the joint statement can create additional difficulties for Boris Yeltsin both within and outside Russia. If Germans do not get a territory of their own they will move to their historical homeland. Incidentally, the emigration of 100,000 Germans will result in a loss of 4 billion rubles to our country in last year's prices. This is an impermissible luxury for our country. However, about 2,000,000 Germans are ready to leave now.

Yeltsin Statement 'Unconstitutional'

LD0901190892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] A news conference of representatives of the Union of Soviet Germans took place in Moscow today. It dealt with the statement by Boris Yeltsin, Russian president, at a meeting with residents of Saratov Oblast. The president's actions were described as unconstitutional and blatantly at variance with the Russian law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples.

An official statement by the Union of Soviet Germans will be made tomorrow, after consultations with the Russian leadership. If it transpires that the Russian leadership supports the president's statement, this spells for Russia the threat of losing several million residents, because they will emigrate, and of worsening economic relations with the FRG.

Khasbulatov Briefs Newsmen on Ryazan Tour

LD1001140892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, Chairman of Russia's Supreme Soviet, has described his trip to Ryazan as a working visit. He arrived there this morning.

I would like to go to enterprises and, of course, to talk to people about their reaction to the deregulation of prices and to our economic reforms, he told journalists at a meeting. We are bringing together the chairmen of the soviets of the oblasts of the whole non-Chernozem zone to discuss everything thoroughly with them. The customary practice in such cases is to hold a working conference in Moscow, but I thought: Why Moscow? Ryazan is a fairly typical city with many problems and difficulties.

As you know, at the end of December Russia's Supreme Soviet adopted a fundamental document on people's social security. Naturally, demands are being made that the local authorities should take appropriate measures without waiting for what the central authorities will do. Both the Supreme Soviet and the president are now seeking to give more rights to the soviets, to the executive bodies of administration and to people themselves. I should also like to see, by way of verification, what is being done on the ground to carry out what has been planned.

Ruslan Khasbulatov has set off on a tour of the city and the oblast.

Popov Accepts Resignation of City Government

LD0901183692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] [First announcer] Now here is the news, beginning right away with the sensation of the day. At a news conference today Yuriy Luzhkov, deputy mayor of Moscow, announced the resignation of the Moscow government. This was a TASS report. The news conference took place, but there was nothing sensational.

[Second announcer] Our correspondent Vladimir Korablev reports by telephone.

[Korablev] During this meeting Deputy Mayor Luzhkov read out a message to Gavriil Popov, the mayor of Moscow, which says in particular that the president of Russia has issued a package of decrees concerning the city of Moscow, creating for the first time a real chance to carry out economic reforms in the city. In connection with this the deputy mayor requested Popov to accept the Moscow government's resignation, and to put together a government of economic reforms for the city of Moscow. The deputy mayor considers it expedient to propose the inclusion in the structure of the new government the following specific sectors: the first is the economic reform sector, the second is social protection of the population, the third is the city's economy, the fourth the future development of the city, and the fifth territorial administration.

The mayor of Moscow accepted the resignation of the Moscow government. At the same time his order contained an instruction to the deputy mayor to put together a new government and to make proposals on its structure, taking into account the allocation of the five categories which I have already mentioned, within two weeks. This same order from the mayor instructed him to reduce the total city administration apparatus by no less than 25 percent. In his order, Gavriil Popov, the mayor of Moscow, instructed the deputy mayor and the government led by him to carry out their duties until the new government has been put together.

Decree Allocates Land for Citizens, Servicemen

LD0901115392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The president of the Russian Federation has issued a decree on allocating plots of land in Moscow Oblast for small-scale construction and cultivation by the citizens of Moscow and its oblast. The decree allocates 40,000 hectares for these purposes. It is planned to make the first allocations of land in a 50-km zone in 1992 and 1993. The decree also projects the allocation of a substantial wedge of land in Moscow's suburban zone for servicemen of the city and oblast of Moscow. The mayor of Moscow has been entrusted with setting out the procedure for granting plots of land to Muscovites for housing construction, gardening, and market gardening by 1 February.

Foreign Aid To Ease Moscow Food Shortages

LD0901135992 Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—Foreign aid may help ease the dramatic food situation in Moscow in the near future. 18 thousand tonnes of meat are being shipped to the city from abroad, Lithuania is expected to deliver 40

thousand tonnes of meat, Germany and other countries are sending humanitarian aid, Vladimir Karnaukhov, a Moscow government minister, told the Moscow City Council which went in session on Thursday [9 January].

Karnaukhov added "the milk issue" is not resolved yet, but expressed hope the situation will clear up in the near future.

Moscow City Council chairman Nikolay Gonchar proposed to create a network of municipal shops in Moscow, which will sell food at state subsidised prices, and privatise transport and depots, engaged in food industry.

The proposal is sure to go against the plan of Moscow reformist Mayor Gavriil Popov, who stands for a fast privatisation of all state shops.

The Moscow deputies were also told police would investigate why free foreign food aid is sold in commercial shops at market prices.

Joint Decision Issued on Moscow Reorganization

LD0901143192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, have adopted a joint decision on the administrative-territorial division of Moscow into municipal districts. The Moscow City Soviet of People's Deputies has received recommendations that the structures of various bodies be made compatible with the division of the Russian capital into municipal districts and that this be done by 31 January.

The decision addresses, in particular, the need to gear the work of people's deputies of rayon soviets of Moscow to the municipal districts from which they were elected.

Moscow Soviet Votes Against Anti-Mayor Agenda

PM0901144392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Viktor Belikov report: "Moscow Soviet Session Opposes Confrontation With City Hall"]

[Text] The seventh Moscow Soviet session, interrupted for the New Year and Christmas holidays, has resumed work. And how interesting it was...

During the deputies' New Year and Christmas holidays a great deal happened in the life of Russia and the capital. The most recent event, leaving no one cold, was the introduction of so-called free prices in trade and public catering, aggravated by the highly acute shortage of goods in Moscow's stores. It is the general opinion of competent specialists that the acuteness of the situation following the liberalization of prices in the vast city could have been considerably alleviated had it been preceded by the privatization of small trading enterprises, canteens, snack bars, and consumer service workshops.

Moscow could have quite easily "absorbed" the inevitable blow of mammoth price hikes by creating a network of private stores whose owners would have sought out and imported everything needed to fill the stores. But the three months leading up to 2 January passed in a mass of futile debates between the legislative and the executive or, more precisely, between the Moscow Soviet and City Hall.

Everything indicates that the realization of the total futility of further confrontation with City Hall and its executive body—the city government—determined the mood of the deputies who gathered on the morning of 8 January in the Moscow Soviet's Marble Hall. The agenda proposed by the city's Duma (small soviet) contains several concrete, exclusively practical matters requiring the session's rapid consideration. In particular the city budget for 1992 must be discussed.

In accordance with established practice, N. Gonchar, Moscow Soviet chairman, gave deputies a chance to submit addenda to the agenda. For 15 minutes varying proposals issued forth from the microphones in the hall, many of which were blatantly confrontational vis-a-vis Moscow's mayor, G. Popov, and City Hall as a whole.

Everything was decided by the green electronic panel impartially recording the results of the voting: Moscow Soviet deputies rejected the proposals to divert the session from considering really urgent questions pertaining to the city's life.

Ingush People's Council Disputes New Border

OW0901201192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1829 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [9 January] in Groznyy the Chechen parliament made public its resolution on the state border with Ingushetia. The resolution transfers the larger part of the Sunzhenskiy region and part of the Mazurbekskiy regions of the former Checheno-Ingushetia to Chechnia. The Chechen parliament states that the borders with Ingushetia "were determined without taking into account the historic belonging of border regions to certain ethnic groups."

Commenting on the resolution on the same day, Magomet-Bashir Tsitskiyev, member of the Ingush People's Council, told IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent: "Certainly, we do not agree with this decision. But soon official documents on the issue will be adopted and announced." "As far as I know, the Cossacks of the Sunzhenskiy region hold the same opinion." Since olden times the Sunzhenskiy region has been populated by the Cossacks.

Chechen Republic To Form Air Force Squadron

LD0901213292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1940 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 9 Jan (TASS)—In the northern Caucasus, 9 January may become the birth date of the air force of the Chechen Republic. As a TASS correspondent has learned, pilots who are citizens of the Chechen Republic decided at a meeting held in Groznyy today to set up their own air squadron, at the initiative of President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Its future commander, (Khayruddin Visangiriyev), a test pilot, stated that the material foundation for this, including Czechoslovak-made aircraft, exists. There are two military airfields now on the territory of the republic, which used to be part of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic in the RSFSR. The pilots who have declared a wish to become the first airborne defenders of the young republic, which proclaimed its independence from Russia last fall, include several Russian boys.

Dudayev Denies Sending 'Snipers' to Tbilisi

PM1001105792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 1

[TASS-INTERFAX report under the rubric "In a Few Lines"]

[Text] A spokesman for Chechen Republic President Dudayev has denied a news story carried on Central Television regarding participation by Chechens in the armed conflict in Tbilisi. "The government has not sent any snipers there, or any armed detachments whatever," he stated.

Groznyy Garrison Demands Action After Attacks

PM0901143592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Ali Kazikhanov report: "Groznyy Garrison Asks President D. Dudayev for Protection"]

[Text] Groznyy—The situation in Groznyy has worsened. This time the local garrison caused the deterioration.

Servicemen not only reacted negatively to the prospect of swearing—on the Koran, moreover—an oath of loyalty to the Chechen Republic and its president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, on 2 February, but expressed indignation at the breakup of the Army, demanding that its unity be preserved.

The murder of Major Vladimir Chichkan while on combat duty on the night of 5 January helped to worsen the situation. Some 12 unknown masked men burst into the Khankal airfield guard unit near Groznyy demanding that the officer give them the key to the weapons room where roughly 50 submachineguns were stored. On being refused, the bandits literally riddled the major with automatic rifle fire and made off, taking his weapons with them.

An officers' assembly adopted an appeal to Chechen President D. Dudayev saying that in December 1991 alone 16 illegal acts were perpetrated against servicemen, and Maj. V. Chichkan's murder was the last straw. The officers demanded that the criminals be arrested by the end of January and prosecuted and servicemen protected. Otherwise, the appeal said, troops would take responsibility for guarding military camps and members of their families into their own hands.

According to reports from President D. Dudayev's press center, after meeting with garrison representatives the president instructed troops to discuss the problem with the national guard and formulate a joint plan of action.

Tatar 'Nationalist Patriots' Plot 'Coup'

LD0901205292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] According to observations by some observers, a coup is being plotted in Tatarstan. Nationalist patriots have openly stated their intentions to disband parliament and to arrest President Mintimer Shaymiyev. For this purpose a national guard is being set up.

The whole of supreme power, according to the radicals' plan, is to pass to the small Majlis, which will then form its own cabinet of ministers. Nationalist patriots have warned everyone who is intending to buy property in Tatarstan that if the small Majlis comes to power, all treaties will be annulled. Enjoying little support in the republic, the nationalists are deliberately opting for the Lebanization of Tatarstan, hoping that the events will prove irreversible. [passage omitted]

Ethnic Problems Increase in Bashkiria

LD1001095692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1310 GMT 8 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Raul Tukhvatullin]

[Text] Ufa, 8 Jan (TASS)—The mighty knot of interethnic problems in Bashkiria is tightening further. The recent congress of the Bashkir peoples which has declared the creation of a separate independent state within the existing boundaries of the republic as a strategic task and has demanded substantial benefits for its "native population" served as a spur for further deterioration of the situation.

Participants in an extended plenum of the Tatar social center of Bashkiria have issued a sharp condemnation of this congress. They have declared that practically all the steps taken to implement this national inequality are forcing them to respond with their own measures. Under

no circumstances will regions populated by the Tatars remain within an "independent" Bashkortostan. Profound concern was voiced at the plenum in connection with the increasing rumors that the Bashkir extremists are already arming themselves.

Cash Shortage in Tula Nearly 'Catastrophic'

PM0901142592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jan 92 p 1

[Untitled PRAVDA-TASS report under the "Newsbeat" rubric]

[Text] The money situation in Tula Oblast is verging on the catastrophic, Nikolay Sevryugin, head of the administration, told your TASS correspondent. There is a shortage of around 500 million [currency not specified], and the population is not even 2 million. In certain places, people are not receiving their pay packets for the second month running. The oblast leaders have appealed to the government and the Russian Federation Central Bank to allocate cash for the most urgent payments.

Stavropol Lifts Restrictions on Food Exports

PM0901140192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Jan 92 First Edition p 6

[URAL-AKTSEPT report: "Way Open"]

[Text] The resolution which Yevgeniy Kuznetsov, head of the Stavropol Kray Administration, adopted about restricting the export of agricultural produce beyond the kray's borders was not in effect for long. Now the inhabitants of Stavropol can transport whatever they like wherever they like without the risk of their baggage being turned over at militia posts. Produce from fields and livestock units exported without a license was confiscated, as they say, without trial and investigation. The right to export goods had to be won back by paying duty three to five times greater than the market value of the exported goods.

Karagandaugol Mines on Strike Over Pay

LD1001115392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2029 GMT 9 Jan 92

["5 of 26 mines on strike at Karagandaugol Association on January 9"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] The basic demands of the workers of Tentekskaya, Kazakhstanskaya, Shakhtinskaya, Gorbachev and Saranskaya mines are as follows—salary increase to at least 3,200 roubles considering the energy spent at the mine, organizing of foodstuffs supply, transfer of at least 15 per cent of produced coal to the property of workers, prohibition of strikers' prosecution.

Omsk Plant Director Cited on Conversion

PM0901141192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1120 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Report from the "Under the Caterpillar Tracks of Conversion" documentary]

[Text] [Unidentified Reporter] Until quite recently the Energiya-Buran complex would have been called an outstanding achievement of Soviet science and technology. Now no less strident voices can be heard everywhere claiming that we wasted a billion rubles [R] by developing this space system which, it seems, nobody needs. This conflict is a vivid example of what excessive secrecy can lead to—an isolated defense sector and highly important decisions being made behind closed doors by a small circle of people. But even the Energiya-Buran system's most strident critics admit that the shuttle's ability to land automatically was a unique achievement by our scientists and designers. These included workers from the Omsk Electromechanical Plant. The plant developed electronic and electromechanical devices for spacecraft guidance systems. Nowadays we are starting to evaluate the quality of new products on the basis of whether they are able to stand up to market competition. The instruments produced by the Omsk Electromechanical Plant have been tested under even tougher conditions—in space. In the past few years the enterprise has experienced such difficulties that it seems it will be hard for the plant to emerge from the crisis without outside help. That is probably why doors which had previously been tightly shut were opened up for us. Lev Yakovlevich Osipov, the plant's general director, talked very frankly about the problems.

[Osipov] Our first encounter with the word "conversion" was in 1989. When conversion got under way here in the second half of 1989 we lost around 12 percent of our output. But the plant was absolutely unprepared to compensate for this 12-percent loss.

[Reporter] You just got your instructions from on high and started carrying them out?

[Osipov] Contracts were dropped and orders withdrawn. Then in May 1990 we lost another 18 percent—not 12 percent this time. The picture's been the same as in 1990. We have lost R53 million worth of output in a totally unplanned way. The enterprise has been trying to hang on to its skilled specialists. We managed to keep them in '89 and '90. But by the end of 1991 we were already finding it tough since we no longer have any way of hanging on to people. Basically because outside organizations—cooperatives and small enterprises—are offering better pay than state enterprises.

[Reporter] Of course, the enterprise is not twiddling its thumbs. They have been trying to save the collective and its skills. For instance, they have begun producing the "Mercury" stereo system. The systems are in demand and are relatively complex, so there is hope that the knowledge and experience of the electronics workers will not go to waste.

Part of the collective has switched to the production of medical equipment and portable vacuum cleaners. But, of course, the skills needed for this work cannot be compared with those required for spacecraft instruments.

[Osipov] This kind of precision is not found in everyone. People must have an aptitude for the work and be neat and precise people as far as their character goes. Because of conversion we are losing these specialists as well as losing output. They are not getting their salaries or the kind of precision work they are able to do. And their professional ability to do this kind of precision work is being lost.

[Reporter] It seems as though the Omsk Electromechanical Plant should not be expecting any big space-related orders in the near future. But there is hope that the plant will manage to keep its head above water. Although the losses incurred from conversion already run to nearly R20 million. Fortunately, the plant has managed to reposition itself in the marketplace—albeit with some losses.

New Kabardino-Balkaria President Elected

LD1001102192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The multi-candidate elections of the first president of Kabardino-Balkaria [autonomous republic] took place in a complex social and political situation. Valeriy Mukhamedovich Kokov, first deputy chairman of the republican council of ministers, obtained the absolute majority of votes. At a solemn ceremony held today, Kokov officially assumed his duties as president of Kabardino-Balkaria. Valeriy Mukhamedovich Kokov swore an oath of allegiance to his people: I solemnly swear to serve the people of Kabardino-Balkarskaya.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Office System To Block Nuclear Button

OW0901182092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Wednesday [8 January] at a meeting with a delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives' Armed Forces Committee that he had a reliable system of communications with the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus that will not allow any of the four leaders to use nuclear weapons without consultation with the three other members of the "nuclear club."

According to Kravchuk, he will have another system installed in his office very soon that will make it possible to block the nuclear button. A joint decision by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan will be necessary to launch a nuclear missile from a silo in any of the republics.

Defense Chief Defends Black Sea Fleet Claim

LD0901134892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Ukraine is a maritime power; therefore, considering the need to protect maritime borders and to defend our coastline, we consider the Black Sea Fleet to be part of our armed forces. This statement has been made by Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov. There are quite a few problems. The minister, however, does not believe the dialogue has reached an impasse.

According to data from the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Black Sea Fleet currently includes 45 major surface ships, 28 submarines, more than 300 small and medium-size vessels, and 151 airplanes and 85 naval helicopters.

Staff Chief Says Ukraine Has 'Right' to Fleet

OW0901182892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Maj.-Gen. Georgiy Zhivitsa, chief of staff of the Ukrainian armed forces, described "the actions of the fleet Commander Igor Kasatonov and the Chief Naval Staff in Moscow" as the main cause of the aggravation of tension around the Black Sea Fleet. Zhivitsa said in an interview with INTERFAX that Ukraine borders on the Black Sea and has a right to the Black Sea Fleet. "We don't regard it (the fleet) as a component of the strategic forces, but the issue of using the fleet in the interests of the Commonwealth may be resolved in a positive light," he said.

Chairman of the Ukrainian Union of Officers Col. Vilen Martirosyan told INTERFAX that the confrontation around the Black Sea fleet is aimed at preventing the creation by Ukraine of armed forces of its own. According to him, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and national TV are the most active parties in fuelling passions around the fleet.

Yeltsin's Remarks on Fleet 'Surprise' Minister

LD1001110292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1025 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By diplomatic correspondents Igor Peskov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—"The criteria and principles on which the foreign property of the former Union may be divided must be based on the decisions adopted in Minsk," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko stated in a conversation with journalists before the beginning of the conference of foreign ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

As far as the Black Sea Fleet is concerned, he went on, solutions acceptable to all sides can also be found. Commenting on statements by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on the fleet's affiliation made during Yeltsin's visit to towns in the Volga region, the minister said it had caused "surprise, to put it mildly" and, in his view, had been made "in the heat of the moment." "This question cannot be solved from a platform. People need to sit down at the negotiation table and seek acceptable solutions," Anatoliy Zlenko stated.

Servicemen Refusing Oath Return to Russia

OW0901181992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [8 January] evening 138 servicemen who refused to swear allegiance to Ukraine were flown to Russia.

During the past three days 505 servicemen from the units that became Ukraine's National Guard left Ukraine after they refused to take the oath of allegiance. They had been called for duty in other Soviet republics and expressed willingness to continue service in their home regions.

The National Guard's press-service told IF [INTERFAX] that around 200 servicemen, including Russians, Kazakhs, Belarussians and Uzbeks refused to take the oath but decided to serve out their tours of duty with Ukrainian units.

The enlisted personnel of the military garrison in the town of Cherkassy swore allegiance to the Ukrainian nation on Wednesday. Commissioned officers will take the oath on January 18. The officers asked for the

postponement to get to know more about the law on the social protection of servicemen in Ukraine that takes effect on January 9.

The first to swear allegiance in Odessa region was a militia (police) regiment that is multi-ethnic. The servicemen asked for a Ukrainian language school to be established in the regiment.

Official: 8% Fleet Personnel Ready for Oath

LD0901135492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A news conference at the Ukrainian permanent mission in Moscow has just ended. Permanent representative Kryzhanovskiy and his military and civilian colleagues expressed astonishment and surprise over statements in the press and on television regarding the problem with the Black Sea Fleet. It was confirmed that 8 percent of the personnel of the Black Sea Fleet are prepared to take an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people.

Interior Ministry Troops Take Oath

LD0901205492 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Text] The servicemen of the Battalion of the Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine stationed in Dnepropetrovsk have taken an oath of allegience to Ukraine. The ceremony was followed by a meeting with the participation of officers, representatives of the local branch of the Ukrainian Republican Party, and Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka.

Reusable Coupons Issued as 'Second Currency'

LD1001113592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1010 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Kiev, 10 Jan (UKRINFORM-TASS)—Reuseable coupons are being introduced on the territory of the Ukraine today. Ukrainian specialists believe that this will be one of the main measures to protect the sovereign state's domestic market and will also compensate for the lack of cash, of which there is now too little to even pay wages.

Unlike previous coupons presented in shops along with the ruble, these, which are printed abroad and reliably protected from forgery, will essentially be a second currency. The rate is one coupon to the ruble. They will purchase foodstuffs and essential items in the industrial group. The ruble will be in circulation at the same time in the sphere of public services, commerce, and at the markets. Most wages will also be paid in rubles for the moment. In time, however, as the number of coupons grows, they will become the effective basis for a Ukrainian currency.

The use of reuseable coupons, Ukrainian financial experts believe, will enable inflation to be brought down and will serve as an incentive to privatize trade and for producers to increase their output of goods.

Non-cash settlements will be made between the independent states for food supplies. Visitors to the Ukraine may exchange a specific amount of money for coupons at the bank and on departure people will have the opportunity to exchange them for rubles.

Kiev Elaborates Space Research Development

LD0901194892 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The concept of the development of space research of Ukraine has been elaborated in our republic. It is planned to realize the entire complex of works on manufacturing space equipment from separate units to space apparatus. The aim is to meet urgent demands of the national economy, space communication, weather forecasts, arrangement of prospecting for mineral resources from space.

Republican Party Assesses Commonwealth Accord

AU0901181992 Kiev SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian No. 20, Dec 91 p 1

[Ukrainian Republican Party statement on the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States issued in Kiev on 11 December]

[Text] The Secretariat of the Ukrainian Republican Party discussed, at its extended meeting, the Accord on the Creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. By the time of the meeting, the Secretariat was not aware of the reservations with regard to the accord proposed by the Supreme Council deputies.

After an assessment of the political situation that has taken shape on the territory of the former USSR, the participants in the meeting arrived at the conclusion that the accord has both positive and negative aspects. The positive aspects are these:

1. A great geopolitical event has taken place: The USSR has ceased to exist as a state. Therefore, it has been stripped of its membership in the United Nations and other international organizations and has ceased to be a subject of international law or a factor in international policy. The Ukraine emerges in the international arena and becomes a successor to its part of the USSR's international obligations. The alignment of forces in Europe and in the world is changing to our advantage.

2. The abolition of the USSR frees all servicemen from the oath that they swore to it. The way is paved for the creation of national armed forces.

3. The emission of money in Russia and the absence of sufficient monetary reserves in the Ukraine have led to the plundering of our commodity market. Now, in line with the accord, Russia has taken it upon itself to print a sufficient amount of money for us to enable us to raise

prices and wages to the level presently in effect in Russia. Until our national currency is introduced, this is the most effective way to protect our commodity market.

4. The great power anti-Ukrainian forces ("the fifth column") have lost their foothold in imperial structures. From now on, anti-Ukrainian (antistate) agitation is illegal.

The negative aspects of this accord are these:

1. The joint management of strategic forces, power engineering, and transport has been provided for. Consequently, the threat of the creation of new suprastate structures remains. As is known, we support direct interstate or multilateral agreements on specific problems (nuclear forces, the Chernobyl issue, and others).

2. The maintenance of a common information space harbors the threat of anti-Ukrainian propaganda being transmitted via foreign mass media (Moscow radio, television, and press).

3. A common economic space not only enables Ukrainian enterprises to sign agreements on mutual supplies, which is a positive aspect, but may also encourage free movement of manpower into the Ukraine.

4. The clause of the accord that defines the inviolability of the borders solely within the framework of the Commonwealth is unacceptable.

The real advantages or disadvantages of this accord will be determined, first and foremost, by the correlation of real political forces. It is necessary to see to it that its negative aspects do not outweigh the positive ones. It is now extremely important to subordinate all the troops stationed on our territory to the Ukraine, to introduce, as soon as possible, our own money, and to strengthen our customs services in order to guarantee normal living conditions for the people.

Republican Party States Present Platform

AU0901105292 Kiev SAMOSTIYNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian No. 20, Dec 91 p 1

["Statement by the Leadership of the Ukrainian Republican Party"; date not given]

[Text] On 1 December, the people of the Ukraine unanimously spoke out in favor of creating a Unified [Sobornyy] Independent Democratic state in which all rights and freedoms stipulated by the UN Declaration of Human Rights and other international legal acts will be adhered to.

Owing to the concerted efforts of all democratic and patriotic forces, we achieved a consolidation of all the social strata, nationalities, and religious denominations around the idea of independence. The policy goal of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] and its predecessors—the Ukrainian Public Group for Promoting the Fulfillment of the Helsinki Accords and the Ukrainian Helsinki Union—for which we were still persecuted until quite recently, **has been achieved.** Our program has become a program for the whole people. **This is our victory!**

Simultaneously with the referendum, Ukrainian presidential elections were held. As the first registered political party in the Ukraine and with the greatest number of members, we, jointly with the All-Ukrainian Society of Formerly Repressed People, the Union of Ukrainian Students, the Ukrainian Youth Association, and the All-Ukrainian Society "Prosvita" ["Enlightenment"], proposed our candidate for Ukrainian presidency—the URP chairman Levko Lukyanenko. Our candidate has received 1,432,556 votes (nearly one and one-half million), or 4.49 percent. This percentage corresponds to our influence upon society and determines our place in the political spectrum of the Ukraine, a spectrum that has not yet been filled in. These are honestly earned votes. We did not resort to cheap populism or unrealistic promises and did not use state structures in our election campaign. Largely owing to our participation in the election campaign, it became possible to achieve such a high percentage (90.32) of votes in favor of Ukrainian independence. We managed to expose as harmful the ideas of a federal structure for the Ukraine and of state bilingualism. We proved the inexpediency of abolishing Soviet power as a state structure. Our composure helped to mitigate the strain that sometimes arose.

More than one-half of all votes went to Leonid Kravchuk. The level of our society is such that it still cannot accept a democrat as president. We hope that Leonid Kravchuk will be able to balance out all social forces and prevent confrontation within our society.

Respecting the will of the people, we call upon all citizens and all public and political organizations to unite around President Kravchuk in the cause of the defense of the independent Ukraine and to start working together in order to develop our state, establish rights and freedoms, and achieve the spiritual rebirth of the Ukrainian people and of all the peoples and ethnic groups for which the Ukraine has become a common motherland.

Until 24 August [1991], an occupation administration was in power in the Ukraine. On 1 December, we declared that from that date on the power in the Ukraine had become ours, Ukrainian, even though its structures are mainly filled with the people from the old administration. The overwhelming majority of them will conscientiously serve the Ukraine. Based upon the powerful opposition—almost 40 percent of voters—the democratic forces will influence the policy of the president and of the government in carrying out political and economic reforms and will, together with them, defend our independence. Under these conditions, the URP intends to play the role of a constructive opposition.

Farmers Group Protests Open Borders

LD0901102192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The leadership of the Ukrainian Farmers' Democratic Party of Ukraine sent a telegram to President Kravchuk in which the party proposes to nullify article five of the agreement signed in Belarus, said Serhey Prusyinda, leader of the party.

[Begin Prusyinda recording in Ukrainian with superimposed translation into English] There is only one word to describe the situation in Ukraine and the word is devastation. Food resources of Ukraine are being plundered in broad daylight and this is possible because our president signed article five of the agreement which reads that the borders of the independent states are free for their citizens, but in fact the borders are free for black marketeers. The prices boosted in Ukraine is because the people from neighboring republics buy everything. Our suggestion is that the borders must be closed to stop food (?drain) from the country. [end recording]

So far President Leonid Kravchuk did not respond to our telegram which demands to do that immediately, said leader of the Ukrainian Farmers' Democratic Party Serhey Prusyinda.

Dairy Industry Threatened With Collapse

LD0901101392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Jan 92

[By TASS-UKRINFORM correspondent Petr Buchel]

[Text] Kiev, Jan 8 (TASS)—The Ukraine dairy industry is in real danger of collapse. During last year alone, the number of cattle in the republic fell by 160,000 head. Compared to the previous year, milk yields fell by 2.3 million tonnes. Workers regard the government as the main culprit: It failed to make timely increases in procurement prices, which would have been at least some compensation for collective and state farms' spending at a time of across-the-board price rises for manufactured goods reaching rural areas. On most farms last year, milkmaids' pay was 160-200 roubles a month, which is nearly one-third below the official minimum subsistence level.

Correction: Kravchuk on Nuclear Arms, Fleet

LD1001120992

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Kravchuk Views Nuclear Arms, Black Sea Fleet" published in the 9 January Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 59:

First column, first paragraph, first sentence, should read: [Text] Kiev, 10 Jan (TASS)—Ukraine's intention to.... (changing date)

First paragraph, last sentence, should read: During the meeting, which took place last Wednesday [8 January], Kravchuk told the... (rewording)

Second paragraph, first sentence, should read: ...plan of removing all tactical nuclear weapons from our state.... (changing "strategic nuclear weapons" to "tactical nuclear weapons")

Same paragraph, same sentence, should read: ...and of destroying all strategic nuclear arms by 1994. (changing "tactical nuclear arms" to "strategic nuclear arms."

Third paragraph, last sentence, should read: ...decision by us." (ends item; last paragraph deleted)

Belarus

Shushkevich Interviewed on CIS, Future Plans

PM0901153092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jan 92 pp 2-3

[Interview with Belarussian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich by special correspondents O. Yegorova and Ya. Yuferova in Minsk "a few hours before the New Year," under the rubric "Top People": "Orchestra Rehearsal: the Belarussian Theme"—first five paragraphs are KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] The 57-year-old Professor Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Republic Supreme Soviet, is the only "nonpresident" among the 11 heads of state in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. He is philosophical about this (after all, what can you make of the fact that Gamsakhurdia is a president but Landsbergis is not?)

He is a new-wave politician. Many people used to identify him with the Belarussian People's Front leaders—he was a "Lenin Square" man. In fact he proved to be more independent of both left and right, which is what brought him not only his high office but also routine criticism from both left and right.

His father, the Belarussian poet Stanislav Shushkevich, was a prisoner in the gulag for nearly 20 years. His charming wife Irina is a scientist, and their son Stanislav is seven years old.

Whatever contribution he may make to history, he has already gone down in it as head of the state in whose Belovezhskaya Forest the CIS was born. For a while the world sighed with relief: Had a Brest Peace come at last?...

This interview was given to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA a few hours before the New Year, when Shushkevich had seen off the last participants in the Minsk meeting of heads of state and government.

[Correspondent] Stanislav Stanislavovich, as the Minsk meeting was drawing to a close you proposed a New Year's toast to the Commonwealth, which had put an end to hypocrisy. Do you know that, or only believe it?

[Shushkevich] I am sure of it.

[Correspondent] Tell me, the very beginning—at Viskuli—was that someone's rough-and-ready scheme, or a historic improvisation by the three of you?

[Shushkevich] A rough-and-ready treaty did exist. It was drawn up back in February by the Slav "troika" plus Kazakhstan. On 7 December Yeltsin flew to Minsk, and at this table we played management games: how to get Ukraine interested. I went to the airport to meet Kravchuk with a ready-made communique, and he agreed immediately, although frankly I was not expecting such a rapid move. And then we decided that we had to go further, which is what happened in Belovezhskaya Forest.

[Correspondent] Many people, including the USSR president, have observed in connection with your "moment of glory" that it was lacking in political courtesy: First you called Bush at the "Washington Central Committee," and after that, Gorbachev....

[Shushkevich] Yeltsin called Bush. I called Gorbachev first. When Gorbachev said: You do not realize that there will be colossal international complications, I replied: No, Bush has said that there will not be.

[Correspondent] Apparently you were going to go and meet Nazarbayev.

[Shushkevich] We were willing to go. We had arranged it, and hoped he would come. When Nazarbayev landed in Moscow, we made contact. He expressed the desire to come along immediately. But then he said that the plane would need refueling, and then it was late....

[Correspondent] Are you going to be hostages to diplomatic protocol: 10 anthems, 10 honor guards at every meeting? In New York and Strasbourg, at the United Nations and the European Parliament, they have a more democratic protocol....

[Shushkevich] You need not worry. So many heads of state have never before visited Belarus all at the same time. The Foreign Ministry expressed its view, and we decided it was our duty to emphasize the fact that we were receiving the presidents and leaders of independent sovereign states. And then the traditional bustle began. In future we have agreed that subsequent business meetings will follow a simplified protocol.

[Correspondent] According to the well-known principle, unanimity is only to be found in the graveyard. In this sense the CIS is very much alive.

[Shushkevich] Yes, the experts have done nothing but make amendments and additions. Not a single document was adopted as it stood, or maybe only the one on outer space. Kazakhstan's draft on that subject has undergone almost no changes.

[Correspondent] You mentioned the group of experts. Are the experts trusted? Whom do they represent?

[Shushkevich] Amid the wreckage of the former Union, in general no one trusts anyone. Remember the Parkinson effect, whereby huge sums of money are appropriated instantaneously by parliament, but the question of the bicycle stand still takes an eternity to resolve. That was approximately our situation. Clearly coordinating bodies of some kind are needed, but that prompted the most heated disputes and fears that the bureaucratic structure could be the ruin of the Commonwealth. I was frankly shocked. A system of preparing documents, an association of professionals, is necessary. We are not talking about a vast structure like the USSR president's apparatus, which consisted of 7,000 people. We are talking about one or two specialists from each country.

[Correspondent] Tell us about the drama at the talks and Shaposhnikov's statement.

[Shushkevich] There was no drama, and Shaposhnikov did not announce his resignation, I was in the chair the whole time. He simply expressed the opinion that if the situation did not improve he could do that...

[Correspondent] Today Belarus is the world's sixth nuclear power. In Shevardnadze's name, consent was given for troops to be withdrawn from Eastern Europe to be stationed in the republic. Are you not afraid of alarming the world with the militarization of Belarus and its intention to create its own armed forces?

[Shushkevich] An independent state cannot exist without its own armed forces. But here another question comes up immediately. If these forces are created by strategists who only have tin soldiers to play with, it will all be nonsense. Therefore, together with the professionals, we must systematically reorganize the existing forces into new structures. Clearly this is 90 percent a question of relations between Belarus and Russia. But at the same time it is bound to affect the other republics, since officers and conscripts from other Commonwealth countries are serving here. Everything must be done to ensure that it does not happen the way it did with the withdrawal of troops from Germany. Shevardnadze, as we say, signed a lot of things there. Yet he had no idea, nor does he to this day, of the difficulties it led to.

We now have a 200,000-strong army. Yet 50,000-60,000 would suffice... We need to create our own army so that we do not have to feed someone else's.

[Correspondent] The Council of Heads of State and Heads of Government has just been set up. Who finds it easier to reach agreements and make decisions: heads of state, or heads of government?

[Shushkevich] I think it is equally difficult for both. Difficult not because of ill will or malicious intentions; it is because of the dire prehistory, the days when every treaty always consisted of those who rule and those who are pleased to have such rulers. But now everyone has to think, decide, and answer for his own actions.

[Correspondent] You decided not to sign a CIS charter on Kravchuk's proposal. But surely the Commonwealth has to have some principles, if only the principle that everyone recognizes the Declaration of Human Rights?

[Shushkevich] You cannot make all the principles absolute. You mentioned the Declaration of Human Rights. This is not my analysis, but no country in the world complies fully with the 1948 Declaration. So the question that arises is the acceptable level of ifs and buts. Of course, you cannot call bloodthirsty conflicts "ifs and buts." That is intolerable. But these phenomenon are to a significant decree the result of the unfortunate prehistory that affects us all, and therefore each such question should be considered individually and in concrete terms. There are three such points in the Commonwealth: Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Moldova. As far as the Republic of Moldova is concerned, we in Belarus, in parliament, have a far better understanding of what is happening there, thanks to our comparatively extensive contacts. I am convinced that we were right to recognize Moldova and right to side with Moldova's constitutional authorities, because it is time we stopped repeating the old chestnut that someone else, Russia for instance, should protect the interests of Russians in the Republic of Moldova. No, the Republic of Moldova should protect the interests of Russians there. And we in Belarus do not need anyone else to protect the interests of Ukrainians or Russians. We, the parliament and government, will protect them. We must follow this principle and not betray it.

We have spent a long time discussing the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and looking for formulas. I personally find it hard to express an opinion here, because if representatives of the Central Asian republics were to give us advice on regulating our relationship with the small nationalities in Belarus, we would no doubt receive that with a wry smile. I do not want to provoke wry smiles from them.

[Correspondent] Is Minsk going to become a city of offices? How much has been appropriated for financing the CIS?

[Shushkevich] No way. We agreed on one simple thing: If structures are needed, they will be financed on a proportional basis by all the Commonwealth countries. There could be more options here, not only those of the 11. The question of the Commonwealth budget has not yet been raised. There is the question of the military budget. I think there should be something of the nature of a Commonwealth secretariat in Minsk eventually. But the presidents have not yet all agreed and they are very cautious about it. I cannot rule it out that many people simply see the Commonwealth (and this is not contrary to its basic idea) as a progressive, peaceful path to pure autonomy. Maybe even outside the Commonwealth. I admit that from the outset. But I think that over this period we should show that it is good, convenient, and beneficial to be in the Commonwealth. Contacts at the highest level, with no big brothers and little brothers, make me personally feel optimistically inclined.

[Correspondent] The view exists that Belovezhskaya Forest saved relations between Ukraine and Russia from a Serbia-Croatia parallel.

[Shushkevich] I am not going to talk about Russian-Ukrainian relations. I will talk about Belarussian-Ukrainian relations. It is my conviction that whatever course events take, these relations will remain worthy. And we will create all the conditions to ensure that Ukrainians living on Belarussian soil are happy. Ukraine reciprocates. There is no other issue: We have declared the inviolability of borders.

[Correspondent] It has become apparent that everyone thinks about his own people first, rather than about the

Commonwealth ideas. Sometimes it is striking to see one or other of the presidents dramatically changing his personal opinion, as if someone was breathing down his neck.

[Shushkevich] It is his duty. His people elected him. He has to comply with referendum results, but it is also necessary to find ways in which everyone can survive.

[Correspondent] How are your personal relations shaping up within the Commonwealth? Or has that time not yet come?

[Shushkevich] My most important philosophy teacher was my grandmother, an almost illiterate woman, who used to say that it is very easy to hate someone and to bear a grudge, but far more difficult to love them. I have learned one thing: If you want to work properly with someone, look for the best in him and forget the things you find objectionable or unacceptable. To be frank, when I first went to the State Council my first impressions were not very good. Officialese, procedural points, yes, someone is breathing down their necks, because no normal person talks like that. That puts you on your guard and makes you rather unwilling to work with that person. But later, when we became fully informed partners, everything was easier. It is like Balzac says: When we become too experienced, we no longer need experience. I am talking about the former State Council there... But now, the new structure. With rare exceptions, the people meeting were already known to each other, and we know what each other's views are on different issues, so we can take all our subjective qualities into account when we discuss things.

[Correspondent] Does the Belarussian parliament influence you?

[Shushkevich] Of course. Our parliament has made no decision on military issues. It has given me a free hand. And the Commonwealth influences me, too.

[Correspondent] What do you value the opposition for?

[Shushkevich] I value them as intelligent and educated people, and the number of deputies who are paranoid is minimal.

[Correspondent] Many sovereign states are now experiencing conflicts between the parliament and the government. Problems arising from the price rises?

[Shushkevich] We told the government, at the Presidium session, that we share full responsibility for the liberalization, since we voted for a market economy. Something surprising is happening here. I have repeatedly felt that our premier takes exactly the same view of the government as I do, but his actions to reorganize the government are not very energetic. I have been reckless enough to say this in the press before. It is not easy to exercise power here, because these structures were approved by the Supreme Soviet. I am expecting the premier soon to come forward with concrete proposals on reorganizing our highly inflated number of committees and ministries.

[Correspondent] Is there a concept of Shushkevich's team?

[Shushkevich] There are several people I can rely on, people who work here. True, I have yet to find my Shakhray. During the election campaign I had some strong student helpers. I am rather upset that small enterprises managed to lure some of them with a fantastic remuneration package, whereas I cannot offer such terms. The fact that X or Y is not in my team does not mean they are not working for me.

[Correspondent] Don't you feel a degree of discomfort due to the fact that all the others in the CIS are presidents elected by the people, while you are a chairman elected by parliament?

[Shushkevich] If I were a president would I be able to do more than I am doing now in my present position? I have grave doubts on that score. Because effectively I would have to use the method of decrees, imperious decisions, the method of coercion. What I can use now is the method of persuasion.

[Correspondent] For many years the republic was a place that had everything. In the past year everything has suddenly gone down the drain. Labels reading "for religious services" or "for fire victims" started appearing on the goods that by chance had remained on the empty store shelves. You have to die or be burned to be able to buy anything. On the one hand, the Balts buy livestock from Belarus at crazy prices: anything to get rid of rubles. On the other hand, our renowned consumer goods are going by fair means or foul not to the stores, but to Polish markets. Maybe this is not speculation, but a feasible business opportunity for millions who no longer have anyone to rely on but themselves...

[Shushkevich] Indeed, Belarus is forced to protect its own consumer market. Let us try coupons alongside the ruble. We have agreed on a single ruble area and we do not intend to be the first to breach it. Perhaps the market will sort everything out.

[Correspondent] Many politicians talk about the possibility of a popular revolt...

[Shushkevich] Who needs a revolt? Unknown politickers who do not have the wit to make it by the normal method. They need impetus, a jolt; someone has to lead them forward, and that is the mob, not the people. They need a revolt. The man who thinks about the future must do all he can to prevent a civil war or a spontaneous, crushing revolt.

[Correspondent] We have a letter from a milkmaid who has decided to go with her family to work on a farm in the FRG. Does that not worry you?

[Shushkevich] A person without property is a slave. And we use the slave philosophy in assessing such actions. What is bad about it? We keep saying that there is no such thing as degrading labor. She will go to earn good money there, if she cannot here.

[Correspondent] Fine. You have the power of Yeltsin or Shushkevich, but there is the eternal power of the land. The milkmaid's hopelessness is the desperation of many who have failed to get their own piece of land in their lifetime. Is this not cause for alarm?

[Shushkevich] Indeed, very much so. There are great clods of earth in the way of the solution of this question in our Supreme Soviet: The interests of kolkhoz chairmen and the people close to them—the present-day landowners—are involved. They once said I was destroying the kolkhoz-sovkhoz system, when they are the ones who feed the people. The local authorities have the same landowning mentality. It is true that as yet private ownership of land is merely a statement of intent, because there is no real legislation to back it up. When I analyzed what funds and stocks of land had been established, well, it was laughable. This will be considered at the Supreme Soviet Presidium. Although they would probably rather die than enable people to obtain land before the spring, and they will effectively put us in a difficult situation as regards agricultural supplies even after next year's harvest. They have created difficulties as well as having a monopoly on food. Even if I were president, this matter would not be resolved by a decree. Unfortunately this is the result of our single-party elections, it is due to the fact that local power structures are headed chiefly by the old nomenklatura with that mentality. But Belarus should not be seen as a quiet communist sanctuary. We refused wholesale humanitarian aid because the people are no longer living in the past: They can do a great deal themselves...

[Correspondent] In these days of newspapers and rallies there is a dangerous tendency: Everyone knows everything, but no one knows how to do anything. They say you have a rare building talent...

[Shushkevich] I can do anything with my hands. I can build a house from scratch. Come and see for yourself: I built it while I was on vacation. The house is considerably bigger than the apartment I am living in—twice as big. I can make dacha furniture, but I do not have the time any more. Six months ago I completely overhauled my car.

[Correspondent] Is it true that you have given up your official dacha?

[Shushkevich] It is simply inconvenient for me to live there. I would have to do without very many friends. There are three of us in a two-room apartment. Next door there is a professor; there are five of them in the same size apartment. What would I do in a 600 square meter dacha? I do not need one. But if I move I will have to bite my lip, because it will be very inconvenient living elsewhere. All my life I have dreamed of having my own office. So I built the house. Now I have built it there is no time to go there...

[Correspondent] The rostrum often becomes a scaffold for the politician. We still do not have a civilized people who are able to love politicians when they are in power and when they are not. Perhaps this is because politics in our country has never been moral before. Many people are amazed that you did not say a few kind words of farewell to Gorbachev.

[Shushkevich] In Alma-Ata we adopted a notable decision on support for him. And I sent a telegram on my own account...

[Correspondent's note] (A few hours after this conversation and as the clock chimed we were all saved from embarrassment by the satirist Mikhail Zadornov who wisely offered a toast "To Gorbachev." Someone in our editorial office even suggested naming Zadornov man of the week).

[Correspondent] You have no regrets about your main profession: For 15 years you were head of a university nuclear physics department...

[Shushkevich] I think that you have to change your job before it is too late so that you do not become obsolete. I worked in scientific machine building where it is very difficult to keep up to standard. Sometimes I think that perhaps this is the best way out of the situation that has come about: You have to get out in time. And change your job. It is the same in politics. If Gorbachev had left and said: I brought you democracy, now get on with it...

[Correspondent] Perhaps you are right that this is a problem not of peoples unable to appreciate their own politicians but of our politicians, who have never left when the time was right... The next question, Stanislav Stanislavovich, is this: Bush's popularity rating has fallen now because the Americans have accused him of being unduly fond of international problems and not fond enough of domestic problems. Does Shushkevich not face this threat at home over the CIS?

[Shushkevich] I have to say that our domestic life is considerably determined by those problems which you call international. Unlike the United States, Belarus was formed as an appendage to something else. No, not to Russia. Russia itself was formed as an appendage. We called this a narrow specialization and did all sorts of stupid things. Now this has to be sorted out. This is not international activity but salvaging internal structures. A problem of survival. The problems of international relations with Latvia—access to the sea. Relations with Ukraine—again, survival. We do not produce a single gram of proper butter in Belarus, that shows how defective we made the economy under the pseudoslogan of increasing the productivity of specialization. I did not work on international relations and in the whole period of my chairmanship I have spent just five days in the FRG and one day and two nights in Austria. In all that time. Before that I had never been to a capitalist country.

[Correspondent] We heard that you are taking English lessons. Is that true?

[Shushkevich] Unfortunately, the putschists got in the way. During my vacation I worked on my house and studied the language. The putsch cut my studies short.

[Correspondent] Are you still obsessed with epigrams?

[Shushkevich] I used to inflict them on all my friends. I recall a student friend from Gomel (I will give him a different name now) who changed his way of life when I suggested that his epitaph should be: "Mikhail Karyachkin lies in this plot. His life was short, but he drank a lot."

[Correspondent] Presidents are people, too. Do you raise a glass at your meetings?

[Shushkevich] Of course, we drank a glass of champagne when we signed the 15 documents after that most difficult nine-hour stint...

[Correspondent] We wish you success. And we hope that we will see not just good declarations but documents that will mark the beginning of a normal, good human life.

Postscript: Political news is an amazingly perishable item. Hardly had the ink dried on the 15 documents unanimously signed in Minsk by the heads of the states than keen debates began on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and the creation of individual armies. Nevertheless, the CIS lives on: Tomorrow in Moscow the foreign ministers will begin discussing dividing the former Union's property abroad....

Shushkevich on 'Negative' Georgian Developments

LD0901190492 Moscow TASS in English 1641 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Minsk January 9 TASS—"Suspending a popularly elected head of state from power with violence is a very negative thing," Belarussian leader Stanislav Shushkevich said, commenting on developments in Georgia.

"Regrettably, peace rallies are being dispersed with machine-guns, even if shots were fired only into the air," Shushkevich told a meeting of officers in the Minsk Military District.

"We believe that all political problems should be solved by peaceful parliamentary means. Illegal actions of law and human rights violations are impermissible, regardless of the intentions justifying them," he said.

Parliament Opens Debate on Military Issues

LD1001050592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Belarus parliament chairman proposed that the parliament session debate military issues. He reported that he had visited the troops of the Belarus Military District the day before. Stanislav Shushkevich read the text of a telegram from Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov concerning the military oath. The commander in chief of the Commonwealth's allied armed forces proposes that this oath be taken between 10 and 12 January. This proposal was met with objections from the floor right away, questioning the expediency of this action, because the telegram proposes that the oath be one of allegiance to the Russian president. The military issue has been additionally placed on the agenda. Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich will make his proposals on streamlining and reducing government structures during the second half of the day.

Moldova

Dnestr Region Armed Formations Seize Weapons

LD1001071492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2335 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev, 10 Jan (TASS)—The Moldova Internal Affairs Ministry press center reveals that on 9 January at 1400 armed formations of the self-proclaimed Dnestr Republic attacked a truck depot [avtokolonna] of an armed prisoner escort regiment of former union internal troops. Several hundred submachine guns and ammunition were stolen. Young soldiers and officers were beaten up. The Moldovan Internal Affairs Ministry report emphasizes that the attackers were led by Major Postik, head of Dubossary's civil defense, who said that the action was carried out on instructions from Igor Smirnov, leader of the Dnestr Republic. Unfortunately, information from the other side has not been obtained.

Dnestr Approves Allegiance Oath for Military

OW0901180592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of the Dnestr Republic has adopted a resolution transferring local military units stationed to the republic's jurisdiction.

The government endorsed the wording of the oath of allegiance for active servicemen. This and other issues are expected to be discussed by the Moldovan leaders and Marshal Shaposhnikov who is due to arrive in Kishinev on Thursday [9 January].

Police Station Fired On in Dnestr Region

OW0901180892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [7 January] night unidentified people wearing paramilitary uniforms opened submachine-gun fire on the main police station of Bendery city in the Dnestr region.

V. Guslikov, chief of the city police, told IF [INTERFAX] that his subordinates took up a defensive position. However they had no time to open return fire, since the attackers retreated in haste.

According to V. Guslikov, supporters of the Dnestr Republic resort to actions of this kind to force local policemen to place themselves under the republic's jurisdiction.

The local news media, he said, have published calls for disbanding the police unit loyal to Moldova and replacing it with Dnestr Republic supporters. His police station, V. Guslikov said, had been under a siege for nearly a month.

According to the police chief, he learned from reliable sources that another raid on the main police station in Bendery was being planned for Friday or Saturday [10 or 11 January].

Dnestr Conciliation Commission Fails To Meet

LD1001111992 Kishinev Radio Kishinev Network in Russian 0700 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The political and legal subcommission of the Conciliation Commission, which was formed after the tragic events in Dubossary, failed to convene in Kishinev yesterday, as was planned. What were the reasons? Our correspondent interviews Oazu Nantoy, the head of the political analysis and information sector under the republic president:

[Nantoy] The first session was ruined for two reasons. First, because of the weather conditions on the left bank; the fog and ice were particularly intense. Second, certain members of the commission were afraid that they might be arrested on arrival in Kishinev. We have already dealt with their apprehensions. Full security has been guaranteed to them, and the commission was not set up in order to arrest its members. We hope that the fog on the left bank clears up and that the commission begins its work. [passage omitted]

Officers Issue Protest Over Investigation

LD1001114892 Kishinev Radio Kishinev Network in Russian 0700 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] In connection with the military procuracy of Odessa Military District's halting of the investigation of Lieutenant General Yakovlev, Commander of the 14th Army, and his restoration to office and the expected arrival in Moldova of Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of Commonwealth Armed Forces, a group of reserve officers in the city of Tiraspol sent a telegram yesterday to Moldovan Prime Minister Muravskiy and to Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, according to a MOLDOVAPRES report. The telegram says the following:

We are indignant at the games played by the military procuracy and the Ministry of Defense around the 14th Army. The actions of the command of that army are turning its units into bandit formations which have already caused casualties. All responsibility for any worsening of the situation in the republic lies with the command of the 14th Army and the commander in chief of the armed forces. We insist on a meeting with Marshal Shaposhnikov. We suggest the Tiraspol Teacher Training Institute as a venue for the meeting.

The telegram was signed by 15 reserve officers in Tiraspol, MOLDOVAPRES reports.

Presidential Decree Sets Income Tax Rates

OW0301130592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1115 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In view of price liberalisation and wage increases, the Moldovan president has passed a decree setting new income-tax rates. Monthly earnings which do not exceed 400 roubles shall not be income-taxed. Greater earning shall be taxed on a progressive scale, beginning with 12 to 30 per cent plus 422 roubles from the sum over and above 3,000 roubles.

Softer income-tax rates have been envisaged for the most vulnerable social groups, including disabled people, mothers of many children, single mothers, widows and widowers with young children, survivors of the siege of Leningrad and victims of Chernobyl.

The decree applies to the incomes received beginning January 2, 1992.

Kazakhstan

President Suspends Russian Military Oath

LD0901192492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1552 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section: "President Nursultan Nazarbayev Suspends the Taking of Russian Military Oath on Kazakh Territory"]

[Text] On January [as received] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said, answering questions of members of the republican parliament:

Starting from the day before yesterday, it is becoming clear that the Russian leadership is sending the text of the oath to all, absolutely all units of the Armed Forces, so that they take an oath of allegiance to the Russian Government. There is no one else to swear allegiance to. I also mean the units deployed on the territory of all other republics. About all republican leaders called me. I called Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and suspended the taking of the oath of allegiance. All officers and men, who are now deployed on Kazakh territory, should be loyal to the first oath of allegiance they took. And let them be loyal to it. After all, true officers and men should not take two oaths of allegiance. This is my opinion. But if the situation develops in a different way and each republic begins to act on its own, we shall be forced to take measures. I am trying to avoid it. This is for you the value of the agreements that we signed.

Kyrgyzstan

Government Legalizes Opium Poppy Growing

LD0901155892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Judging by a RIA report from Bishkek, there will be no shortage of opium, of all things. Kyrgyzstan has finalized the legalization of opium poppy growing. This has been learned from sources close to the republican president. Trial sowing will start this year. The crop is expected to be cultivated on 200 hectares. There is practically no possibility of breaking into the world market with that stuff since the market is controlled by almost 30 countries. Consequently, the opium will presumably be supplied to states that have emerged from the former Union. Let us hope that we will pull through difficult times without intoxicating ourselves with opium.

Tajikistan

Diplomatic Relations Established With Iran

LD1001111692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0942 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TADZHIKTA correspondent Mukhiddin Umarov]

[Text] Dushanbe, 10 Jan (TASS)—The official visit to the republic by a government delegation headed by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki concluded with the signing of a communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Tajikistan and Iran.

It was emphasized during the talks that the establishment of diplomatic relations at embassy level will facilitate the all-round development and strengthening of political, economic, and cultural ties between the two countries, which have a common language, traditions, and cultural values.

The sides came to the joint opinion of the need for the opening of a direct air bridge between Dushanbe and Teheran, as well as a number of other towns of Iran. It was also decided to build a highway and a railway to Teheran through Turkmenistan.

Embassy Opens in Dushanbe

LD0901141392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The embassy of the Islamic republic of Iran was opened today in the Dushanbe. This is the first embassy of a foreign country in our republic. It is worth mentioning that at present the consulate of the republic of Afghanistan is functioning in the republic. Now that our republic has joined the Commonwealth of Independent States, it is expected that embassies of foreign countries will increase here in the future. In this way diplomatic relations and economic cooperation between our republic and other states will develop.

Uranium Sales Not Overseen by IAEA

LD0901140792 Moscow TRUD in Russian 9 Jan 92 p 3

[A. Komrakov report: "Was There a Bomb?"]

[Text] A report from Dushanbe, flagged "Especially for TRUD," arrived in our editorial office before New Year from a news agency called NANT. Without naming names, the report claimed that the idea of selling enriched uranium to rich Arab countries was maturing in certain echelons of power in the now independent Tajikistan. It claimed that the Islamic world, including Saddam Husayn and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, would find Tajikistan a supplier capable of satisfying their nuclear ambitions. "Independent observers," the report said, "believe that the mountain republic has enough uranium reserves to supply the population of one hundred Tajikistans."

G. Koshlakov, chairman of the republic of Tajikistan State Committee for the Economy, made the following comments on the aforementioned report when asked to do so by B. Ashurov, our own correspondent in Dushanbe: "This is pure fabrication. There are no major uranium deposits on Tajik territory, and none have recently been discovered. Talks were held between the republic and delegations from Iran and Pakistan, but

there was not even a hint of cooperation in the field of developing and selling enriched uranium."

Thus it seemed to us that the matter was of no importance. This is precisely why we refrained from publishing this item at the time. But over the last few days a number of foreign mass media, followed by our own mass media, have again started to elaborate on the theme of the "Islamic nuclear bomb," and moreover Tajikistan has again been mentioned as the main supplier of uranium, technology, and even specialists.

This is what Yu. Vishnevskiy, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry, said about this. "Tajikistan does indeed possess uranium ore reserves, but the percentage of uranium they contain is low. About 3 percent of the total quantity of ore extracted on the territory of the former USSR is extracted there. The republic has the potential to preconcentrate the uranium ore to some degree, but it has neither the technology nor the suitable raw materials to produce the nuclear fuel needed to manufacture weapons. Therefore the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] does not oversee the sale of Tajik uranium. Only the movements of nuclear materials and the highly enriched uranium-235 isotope—the type which Tajikistan does not possess—are overseen in this way."

Yu. Vishnevskiy added that Tajikistan has hitherto sold all its uranium to Russia, where it was enriched. There are absolutely no obstacles to Dushanbe finding new buyers for its uranium, including Islamic countries. As he said, the IAEA does not monitor these deals, and Russia can find other sources of raw material, for example Czechoslovakia, without disadvantage to itself. After all, world uranium prices have fallen quite considerably over the last few years, and trade between the former Soviet republics is increasingly geared to these international prices.

So, judging by the expert opinion of Tajik and Russian Government representatives, rumors of a "Central Asian bomb" are exaggerated.

Turkmenia

Union News Agency To Be 'Turkmen Press'

LD1001051892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1418 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Ashkhabad, 9 Jan (TASS)—To improve the work of the Turkmen news agency further and to ensure that the agency transmits high quality and up-to-date news within the republic, the Turkmenistan president has issued a decision turning the former union republic's news agency, Turkmeninform, into a state news agency called TURKMEN PRESS.

Murad Karanov, formerly the NOVOSTI news agency correspondent for the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic, editor of the newspaper KOMSOMOLETS TURKMENISTANA and member of the president's press service, has been appointed director of Turkmen Press.

Reports of Arms Supplies to Iran Denied

OW0901205192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1829 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Member of Turkmenistan's Presidential Council, Commander of the Central Asian Frontier District, Aleksandr Bogdanov, said, commenting on foreign media's reports about Iran's interest in Soviet armaments, that the question of arms supplies to Iran had been neither raised nor discussed in Turkmenistan. This problem was not even touched upon either during the Turkmenistan president's visit to Iran in October 1991, or afterwards.

Mr. Bogdanov also said that at the moment the possibility of Turkmenistan supplying arms to any country was absolutely ruled out. This, he said, was due to the fact that the future of the Commonwealth's armed forces was not decided yet.

China To Guarantee Republic's Independence

LD0901115392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1830 GMT 8 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] China has undertaken to be a guarantor of Turkmenistan's independence, says Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Avdy Kuliyev.

Commenting to PF [POSTFACTUM] on the results of the official visit to Turkmenistan by a Chinese Government delegation, Kuliyev also said that the Chinese officials, including Minister for External Economic Relations and Foreign Trade Li Langqing and Deputy Foreign Minister and a special representative of the Chinese Government Tian Zengpei, at the talks with President of the Republic of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov January 7 said China was prepared to render an all-round and continuous assistance to Turkmenistan in pursuing its political interests. The Chinese representatives, Kuliyev said, also registered China's intention to be Turkmenistan's political ally. The foreign minister also told PF that Turkmenistan will shortly join the Islamic Conference Organization, as membership in the organization will help maintain order at the borders and stability in the region.

Uzbekistan

Extraordinary Parliamentary Session Rescheduled

LD1001104992 Moscow TASS in English 0953 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tashkent January 10 TASS—An earlier date has been set for the plenary meeting of the 9th extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan—January 13 instead of January 16.

This was done because the Uzbek parliament has to urgently discuss several problems, linked with the republican economy's switchover to a market system and the introduction of Uzbek coupons. It is also expected to discuss measures to be taken in connection with the liberalization of prices, already started in other republics—members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Earlier published reports that free prices would be introduced in Uzbekistan beginning January 10 proved to be incorrect.

Defense Chief To Support Minsk Agreements

LD0901130792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1300 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The decisions adopted in Minsk on the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States will be strictly observed by the leadership of sovereign Uzbekistan. In making this declaration Major General Ahmadov, the republic's minister for defense affairs, called on servicemen and members of their families to remain calm and not to give in to the influence of various provocative rumors. It was also stated unambiguously that everything possible will be done in the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure that the social interests of officers and soldiers are not encroached upon.

Mufti Praises Turkish Model of Development

PM0901144192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Interview with Mufti Mukhammad-Yusuf Mukhammad-Sedik, head of the Central Asian Muslim Spiritual Administration, by Andrey Orlov; in Tashkent; date not given: "Mufti Mukhammad-Yusuf Mukhammad-Sedik: We Like the Turkish Path of Development"]

[Text] Tashkent—What is happening in Central Asia, what direction are the processes taking?—these questions worry many people today. The vast region in the center of our continent is all too important and complex. The Alma-Ata decisions still leave questions, but the course of many republics, Uzbekistan among them, now seems to have become clear.

The republic considers what has happened to be an indisputable achievement. Uzbek President I. Karimov pointed out that the abandonment of a totalitarian center makes it possible to develop from being a Central Asian supplier of raw materials, which was effectively what the republic was, into an autonomous, developed state capable of providing the entire multinational population with a fitting life.

But what kind of republic will it be? Some people are voicing the idea that Uzbekistan, with its strong Muslim traditions, may be the prototype Islamic state of tomorrow.

Mufti Mukhammad-Yusuf Mukhammad-Sedik, head of the Central Asian Muslim Spiritual Administration, categorically rejected that conjecture during our conversation:

[Mukhammad-Sedik] Religion must not control the government's actions; religion has its own role and its own tasks. Take note: There are virtually no theocratic states in the Muslim world—the overwhelming majority of them have secular governments and secular constitutions. It is only perhaps Iran that has tried to create an Islamic state, but that is a special country where the Shiite group dominates. The other Muslim countries are Sunni. You must distinguish between them.

The fact that the Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan are trying to establish contacts with Muslims abroad is quite natural. We are united by customs, traditions, culture, and common roots. Why renounce our heritage? There is no need to fear the desire for this community. Just as Islam should not be seen as some kind of rigid system. On the contrary, our religion recognizes all other faiths. The Prophet Muhammad said: "If anyone offends the follower of a different creed, he offends me." That is one of the fundamental truths of our peace-loving, humane religion. But one must not forget that Muslims were alienated from their faith for many decades. That is why the task of moral and spiritual revival is so acute.

[Orlov] But, Esteemed Mufti, should we not be put on our guard by the incident in Namangan Oblast, where a large group of mainly young people seized the former Uzbek Communist Party obkom [oblast committee] building at night in order to set up an Islamic center there?

[Mukhammad-Sedik] The clergy does not approve of this action. To seize someone else's property is a sin, according to Muslim law. But emotions surfaced because the people were deceived. Incidentally, there were no excesses in Namangan. But the reason [for the incident] is no secret to anyone. The authorities had behaved in a totally "communist" manner, promising to give the former obkom building to the medical center and then housing the oblast council of the new Uzbek People's Democratic Party there.

I said at the time: If the state were to decide to transfer that building to the spiritual administration, we would not accept it free of charge, we would pay the proper rate without fail. We must not repeat the Bolshevik practice of expropriations and requisitions. One person would take something, then another—there would be no law at all then. The situation was defused when it was decided to give the obkom building to a mother and child health center. Nothing would have happened had the oblast leadership shown compassion straightaway and not tried behind closed doors to make a gift to a party with which it sympathized.

[Orlov] In your view, what will Uzbekistan's path be in the new conditions?

[Mukhammad-Sedik] We like the Turkish course of development, with its secular government, economic reforms, and Muslim religion, with, of course, the presence of other religions. That is what the republic's government thinks. However, we must move away from

the traditions of communist government, advancing pan-human values: humanity, mutual respect, and guarantees of every person's rights.

The Alma-Ata decisions inspire hope—they are better than those proposed and discussed for many months in Novo-Ogarevo. On the other hand, many people, myself included, do not rule out a repetition of 1922, when everything started with an association of sovereign states and resulted in you know what. I see something like the European Community, with autonomous republics pooling efforts in common interests. We must not allow a bigger republic to begin to dictate terms to a smaller republic after a while. The totalitarian center may still be revived, and that harbors the danger of another breakup. I think that this is something that all Commonwealth states should ponder.

Armenia

Gamsakhurdia Interviewed on Georgian Situation

LD1001042192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2359 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 10 Jan (TASS)—"I will have to resign only if my electors withdraw their votes," said Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who is temporarily staying in Armenia. He said in an interview with Armenian television, which was broadcast late on the evening of 9 January, that the events in Georgia were a "putsch," "a violent overthrow of a legal, constitutional authority," carried out by "a certain gang of people who are dubious in moral aspects and in all other ways." The president explained that his departure from his motherland was not because "he could not have held out there," but due to his desire to avoid bloodshed and new victims, and "so that the people could breathe with relief."

While accusing his political opponents of misinformation and slander, Gamsakhurdia slammed the torture rooms that were shown on television as "absolute misinformation" and "another trick of the so-called opposition," which, according to him, could have "set up all this quite easily." He also refuted accusations of stealing the treasury. The president admitted that he had made mistakes. He considers, in particular, that he was wrong "to have been too soft and to have made too many consessions" to the opposition, which he called a "criminal gang" that has expanded and is striving for power and profit, and for everything "that the criminal world wishes to achieve." One could say that what has happened is "a concentration of the criminal world which has taken the upper hand," the deposed head of Georgia stated.

Touching on the role that former USSR External Relations Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has played in the events in Georgia, Gamsakhurdia claimed that "of course, he has something to do with them." According to the president, Shevardnadze directly expressed his links with these events and "even his leading role" in them. The Georgian leader in the years 1972-1985, according to him, "praises the putschists' actions and paints them as democrats." In Gamsakhurdia's words, Shevardnadze "sees the process of the violent overthrow of authorities, the bloodshed, atrocities, and vandalism as a splendid and democratic action."

As for his own future plans, Gamsakhurdia said that he will expose the actions of his opponents, the "evil which has prevailed in Georgia." He said that he will "tell the truth about them." This is his only weapon. He also said he will continue the struggle for Georgia "using words, by exposing and telling the truth." Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who looked tired and downhearted, predicts "great disasters" for Georgia, considering that "anarchy will continue" there and that the authorities "will not be able to control the country." He expects all kinds of accusations from them. "I, continued the president, am on Armenian territory and the authorities have given guarantees that I will be safe here." He waits for Armenia to "support justice" and considers that the republic "has already expressed" and "will continue to express support for the legal and constututional authorities of Georgia."

Konstantin Ter-Oganesyan, the Armenian television correspondent who conducted the interview, reported that Zviad Gamsakhurdia sent a statement to the heads of states and governments on 7 January. According to the journalist, Gamsakhurdia has stated his determination to remain in the position of Georgian president since he was elected to this post legally and by the vast majority of the republic's population.

Meets With Armenian Official

LD1001092592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0142 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—Armenia can in no way be seen as a place of political asylum for Zviad Gamsakhurida, stressed Khosrov Arutyunyan, chairman of the Armenian parliamentary commission for issues of self-government, in an exclusive interview with TRUD's Yerevan correspondent in today's issue of the paper.

Along with Babken Araktsyan, head of the Armenian parliament, Arutyunyan had a 45-minute conversation on Wednesday [8 January] evening at the instruction of the Armenian president with Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who is spending his fourth day in Armenia's Idzhevanskiy Rayon.

"It was the first time I had met him, so I have nothing to compare my first impressions with," Khosrov Arutyunyan told the correspondent. "He looks calm, as though he is reasoning sensible and, it has to be said, as though he is well aware of the delicate situation in which Armenia finds itself since his sudden arrival here escorted by his relatives, entourage, and personal bodyguards."

As for the possibility of handing Gamsakhurdia over to the new Georgian authorities, this matter will be examined "on the basis of the norms of international law and civilized relations between neighboring independent states," he said.

Fate of Armenians in Azerbaijan Discussed

OW0901212392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2058 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The introduction of the presidential rule in a number of regions of Azerbaijan is the internal affair of that republic, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan told IF [INTERFAX]. The Armenian authorities do not intend to interfere in them, he added.

He noted, however, that the decree on presidential rule points to the fact that "unfortunately, Azerbaijan was not prepared for compromises and mutual concessions".

"We cannot just sit back and watch the elementary rights of the Armenian population being violated," said Mr. Ter-Petrosyan.

Speaking about the economic situation, the president said that the Armenian market could be stabilized within a year given stable production of goods. He noted, however, that the blockade of the gas pipe-line and railway had put the Armenian industries in a state of paralysis.

The minimal social and everyday needs of the population are being met thanks to enormous effort and patience of the population. The Armenian government's first-priority task is to ensure social protection of its citizens.

Negotiated Settlement With Azerbaijan Urged

NC0901165192 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Armenian and Azerbaijani intellectuals have issued a joint appeal to the international community and the people and governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The appeal says: Today let us not assess blame. We will leave that task to history and future generations. The war has brought our two peoples to the brink of disaster. It is obvious that negotiations are the only solution. The prevailing situation obligates Armenian and Azerbaijani intellectuals to reflect the pain of our peoples and search for ways of reconciliation.

The appeal says: Only magnanimity and humanism can save our people at this tragic time.

The appeal is signed by Grant Matevosyan, Akram Aylisli, Vardges Petrosyan, Sabir Rustamkhanli, and other well-known public and intellectual workers of the two republics.

Azerbaijan

21 Killed in Blast on Krasnovodsk-Baku Ferry

PM0901212592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 8

[Valentin Belykh report: "Maritime Ferry Blown Up in Baku"]

[Text] Around 20 people died and more than 50 sustained burns during a fire aboard the maritime ferry Sovetskaya Kalmykiya, plying the Krasnovodsk-Baku run.

As described to us by telephone from the Azerbaijan Main Fire Protection Administration, the Sovetskaya Kalmykiya had already entered the port of Baku and was getting ready to moor when, at 1310 hours, two successive explosions rang out aboard the ferry. Part of the ship was soon enveloped in flames. Fifteen firefighting vehicles and four specially equipped vessels were soon gathered at the scene of the accident in response to the alarm call. The situation was complicated by the fact that the upper deck was crowded with passengers ready to come ashore. Panic then set in among them. But gangways were thrown across and it was possible to get people off. The firefighters forced their way through to the main sources of the fire, localized them, and then extinguished them. The fight against the blaze lasted almost three and a half hours.

A painstaking investigation of the causes of the tragedy is now being conducted by the appropriate agencies. According to reports from some sources, a detonator from an explosive device has already been discovered.

Fighting Continues in Nagorno-Karabakh

OW0901200992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1829 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the "LUR" independent information center, the ongoing first session of the Supreme Council of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (proclaimed by the Armenian majority, but not recognized by Baku) in Stepanakert has elected Oleg Yesayan as republican Prime Minister. Until recently Yesayan worked as deputy chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh executive committee.

Meanwhile, fighting continues in a number of Nagorno-Karabakh's regions. The Azerbaijani Interior Ministry says Armenian militants have blocked the town of Khodzhali. The town has run out of food reserves and is being shelled from heavy artillery. On Wednesday night the shelling left 4 Azerbaijanis dead.

The Azerbaijani village of Umudlu in the Agderinskiy region is under continuous artillery fire from the Armenian villages of Zeilik and Aterk. During the fighting between opposing sides near the village of Dzhuvarli of the Phizulinskiy region two Azerbaijanis were killed.

The "LUR" information center reports on Wednesday evening a group of Azerbaijanis fired at an automobile near the village of Karin-tak of the Shushinskiy region. As a result, three passengers were killed and two wounded.

Government Applies To Join IMF, IBRD

LD0901182792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1712 GMT 9 Jan 92

[by Pavel Vanichkin]

[Excerpts] Washington, 9 Jan (TASS)—Azerbaijan has submitted an official application to join the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). This was announced in a World Bank press release circulated today. [passage omitted].

According to the release, Azerbaijan has also applied to join the IMF. Azerbaijan must become a member of the IMF to qualify for entry into the IBRD.

CSCE Membership Sought

NC1001085292 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The republic's Foreign Ministry has conveyed an official application to Hans-Dietrich Genscher, head of the CSCE ministerial council. The application said that the Azerbaijan Republic wishes to participate in the process initiated by the Helsinki Final Accord and the Paris Treaty for the establishment of a new Europe and, as such, become an equal member in the general CSCE process.

Air Defense Troops Pull Out of Nakhichevan

PM0901130992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jan 92 Single Edition p 3

[Report by Major A. Ivanov under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Air Defense Troops Have Left Nakhichevan. Evacuation Reminiscent of Breakout from Encirclement"]

[Text] Air Defense Troops Main Staff—An extremely complex situation has taken shape for the subunits of the radiotechnical troops stationed in Nakhichevan. Our newspaper has already reported the so-called "nationalization" of Soviet Army arms and military equipment by the local organs of power. Individual companies and a battalion have been obliged to suspend their tour of combat duty and servicemen and members of their families have been subject to insults and physical assault. They were virtual hostages in the hands of well-armed men perpetrating arbitrary rule who looted depots, military equipment, and property, and put out of action the radar stations' power supply units. Having taken the residential townships under their "tutelage," the representatives of the armed formations went on the rampage in the barracks and officers' houses.

The departure of the servicemen's families was reminiscent of an evacuation of the front years. Women and children were able to take hurriedly from the goods acquired over the years only the most essential items which would fit into a few cases and bundles. The Air Defense Troops command also decided to withdraw the unit and subunit personnel from the region.

Our correspondent was told by Lieutenant General G. Dubrov, chief of the Air Defense Radiotechnical Troops, that all the families of officers and ensigns were safely transported to a military unit outside the republic.

"Withdrawing the personnel from Nakhichevan on their equipment," Lieutenant General G. Dubrov stressed, "is not possible since the motor vehicle pools are blocked by the armed groupings. Nor was the local airfield receiving military aircraft. One option remained—sending a convoy of trucks under cover of armored vehicles to transport the personnel."

On 3 January a convoy was detained as it was leaving Nakhichevan. Five servicemen headed by Colonel V. Zelinskiy and V. Kireyev were arrested, the others were sent back. The hostages were only released 5 January. As of today not a single Air Defense Troops serviceman was left in Nakhichevan.

Nakhichevan 'Army' Vows To Defend People

LD0901152892 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9 IRNA—The army of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan has sworn to the Holy Koran to maintain security of the republic's people, the Persian daily KEYHAN reported here today. The daily said Geydar Aliyev, speaker of the Nakhichevan's parliament, has also announced that all administrative and security affairs of the republic will be run under the supervision of the parliament.

President Meets With Iranian Oil Minister

NC0901133092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] President Ayaz Mutalibov received Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i in Baku yesterday. Aqazadeh-Kho'i informed Mutalibov that Iran is ready to export natural gas to Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan and help them with oil prospecting and refining.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i also met Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov on implementing the recent agreements on oil sales.

Iraqi Official Delivers Recognition Memo

NC0801105192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] The Iraqi consul general in Baku today handed a memorandum to Foreign Minister Musa Sadykhov at the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The memorandum informed Sadykhov of the Iraqi Government's decision to recognize Azerbaijan's independence, turn the Iraqi Consulate General into an embassy, establish diplomatic relations, and appoint the consul general temporary Iraqi charge d'affaires in Azerbaijan.

Iranian Consulate Transformed Into Embassy

LD0601011392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1943 GMT 5 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] On January 4, ceremony of transforming Iran's general consulate in Azerbaijan into embassy took place. The ceremony was attended by Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov and First Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Mahmud Va'ezi-Jaza'i. The Azerbaijani and Iranian sides assessed the event as a new epoch in the history of relations between the two border states.

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Ignore Calls for Calm

LD0901170192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Just as before, the situation in Tbilisi remains tense. Shots are still being fired. In spite of the fact that a state of emergency has been introduced and rallies have been banned, Gamsakhurdia supporters are ignoring television appeals by the Tbilisi commandant. We have just received a report from the Georgian capital. It is by Rezo Georgutiani:

[Georgutiani] Today, as reported at the press center of the temporary government, a rally in support of the former president was scheduled. The fact is that today there will be mass funerals of the victims who perished a few days ago when a rally was broken up by the current leadership of the Military Council.

Criminal elements are also taking advantage of the unstable situation. There are cases of thefts and violent robberies of citizens. Therefore the whole city is being patrolled by the militia or the republican guard.

In some districts of western Georgia there is unrest, too. The former president still has many supporters. There have been cases of clashes with the law-enforcement bodies. There are casualties. No details have yet been reported.

In general the situation in Tbilisi is still tense, although the Military Council is, basically, in control of the situation in the city.

Rezo Georgutiani reporting for Radio Rossii.

Civil War Possible

LD0901201692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Here is another report which has just been received from Tbilisi.

The situation there remains very complex. According to information received today by a TASS correspondent over the phone, from sources close to the Republic's Military Council, the forces supporting disgraced President Zviad Gamsakhurdia have started to recover from the initial shock, and to organize a campaign of disobedience to the present leadership of Georgia. It is taking the form of holding unauthorized demonstrations, armed provocations, and attacks on peaceful citizens. Robberies and looting are taking place.

The situation on the periphery, and first of all in western Georgia and in Abkhazia, is becoming more worrying. There is information that an enrollment of volunteers to defend the legally elected president is being actively conducted there. Reality is such that Georgia might find itself facing the prospect of a civil war.

Besides, the attitude of the leaders of the opposition party—they are more than a dozen—to the new leadership is unclear so far. They have occupied a waiting position.

Gamsakhurdia Said Unfit To Stand Trial

PM1001150992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Besik Urigashvili dispatch: "The New Authorities Are in Control of the Situation"]

[Text] Tbilisi, 9 Jan—At a news conference for Georgian and foreign journalists, Tengiz Sigua spoke of the direct damage caused by the fighting in the center of Tbilisi. A total of 10,000 square meters of housing has burned down and 252 families have found themselves without a roof over their heads. That is, 739 people. Two hotels in Tbilisi, some state dachas in a settlement outside the city, and two sanatoriums have been set aside to house these people. The direct damage can be assessed as between 500 million rubles [R] and R1 billion.

As Sigua stated, the new authorities have virtually taken control of the situation both in Tbilisi and in the republic as a whole. A high-ranking representative of the Transcaucasus Military District command, who was relying on military sources of news, confirmed this information in a conversation with me. According to Sigua, the only hotbed in the republic today is the city of Zugdidi and Zugdidskiy Rayon, where demonstrations by Gamsakhurdia supporters are still continuing. But, as Sigua believes, this is happening as a result of the shortage of accurate information on this man's true character. The future of the former Georgian president evoked the journalists' interest. According to the latest information, he is still in the Armenian city of Idzhevan. Sigua stated that an agreement has been concluded with the Armenian Government, under which Gamsakhurdia and his family may receive political asylum in Armenia, but only on condition that they do not leave this country's territory. Sigua accused Gamsakhurdia of embezzling state property. He claimed that the president has taken 200 million rubles and a large quantity of hard currency out of the republic.

"Gamsakhurdia cannot participate in future political life since he is a state criminal, as well as psychologically unwell. For this reason he cannot stand trial," Sigua said.

Medical findings dated 1950, 1956, and 1977 are available. In answer to my question concerning the fact that many defenders of human rights have spent time in psychiatric hospitals on the basis of such findings, Sigua noted that this is a fair observation, but that five out of the six doctors who wrote the findings on Gamsakhurdia's psychologically abnormal state are still alive and prepared to confirm their diagnosis.

Sigua also criticized the republic Military Council, which, in his opinion, made certain mistakes, particularly when dispersing the demonstration by Gamsakhurdia's supporters. But at the same time, the premier of the interim government

stressed that it is impermissible to hold rallies during a state of emergency. Incidentally, another rally by Gamsakhurdia's supporters was held yesterday in the station square in Tbilisi. It involved almost 600 people and went on for around half an hour. The participants in the rally said that several deputies from the former ruling bloc were political prisoners. However, as it later turned out, no one had arrested anyone.

The date of the possible handover of power by the Military Council to an interim civilian government was made known, as well as the approximate date of elections to parliament. It appears that the Military Council will give up its powers by 12 or 13 January, and elections to the new parliament will be held between 20 and 30 April. All political parties that operate lawfully on the republic's territory can take part in them, including the "Roundtable" parties. Sigua also broached the question of the situation in the former South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast. He said that the continuation of fighting there is political imbecility. From what he said, contacts with the leadership of the Ossetian side have already been established, and he is convinced that it will all be resolved using civilized methods, by means of political negotiations.

I can bear witness to the fact that the situation in Tbilisi is approaching complete stabilization today. The law enforcement organs and the Military Council forces are in control of life in the city. Shooting has completely stopped. The threat of anarchy and lawlessness seems to have passed.

Denies Using Torture

LD0901215292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Announcer-read video report, including recorded interview with former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia by K. Ter-Avanesyan, place and date not given; captioned "Footage from Armenian Television 9 October" from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The new Georgian prime minister, Tengiz Sigua, said today that the government is monitoring the situation in Georgia, though the situation remains extremely tense. Among the hot spots where Gamsakhurdia's supporters are strong are the port of Poti, Batumi, and other towns.

Last night Gamsakhurdia's supporters stormed into a publishing house in Tbilisi, but quickly abandoned it afterward. Sigua stated that Zviad Gamsakhurdia was not being threatened with arrest, as he has a serious mental illness. During a number of years he underwent treatment, and there are relevant documents to prove it. With regard to the other members of the former government, criminal proceedings have been instituted already. I think many remember yesterday's report from Tbilisi, which showed the tools of torture used by Gamsakhurdia's supporters.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] (?Did you watch) Moscow Television?

[Gamsakhurdia] No, unfortunately.

[Correspondent] It showed a so-called bunker where you spent some time recently. At the same time, it showed some sort of device, with the voice-over commenting as follows: This is the device for electric shock torture. People who subsequently were to be gotten rid of were tortured there.

[Gamsakhurdia] This is absolute disinformation. This is yet another trick by the so-called opposition, who could concoct it very easily. [end recording]

Tengiz Kitovani, a leader of the Georgian Military Council, said today that in the next few days the next session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet will be convened. As soon as it begins proceedings, the Military Council, Kitovani said, will give up its powers. Until the next elections power will be in the hands of the provisional government.

Shevardnadze Says 'Tough Steps' Essential

PM0901214592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 2

[Unattributed report under general heading "Situation in Georgia"]

[Text] Describing the situation in Georgia during an interview given to NEGA, Eduard Shevardnadze said, in particular, the following: "Tension in the republic is now so great and the threat of the conflict turning into large-scale civil war so real that I regard the adoption of very energetic measures to restore order. including certain tough steps, as essential. In this situation my aim is to help my country break this very serious deadlock, making use of every possibility. It really is a catastrophic situation from the standpoint of the economy, politics, and international relations."

Sends 'Victory' Message

LD0901214792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has sent a message to the Georgian people, in which he evaluates the latest events unequivocally as the victory of the democratic revolution. Foreign observers have taken a somewhat cautious attitude toward Eduard Shevardnadze's renewed activities. The BBC observer has reminded for instance that Shevardandze played a rather obscure role when he was the first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party. He has never been especially popular in the republic. At the same time, Tengiz Sigua, the Gamsakhurdia's former prime minister, who is even now engaged in setting up an interim government in Georgia, has been stressing and maintaining his close contacts with Shevardnadze at least since September.

Favors Role in Government

LD0901135192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, one of the most popular political leaders in the former USSR, has said he would not reject an offer to take part in new political structures in Georgia. Eduard Shevardnadze indicated in an interview for the Moscow-published paper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA now that the totalitarian regime in Georgia had been overthrown he considered it his duty to help his home country with the building of a democratic state. [sentence as heard] One of the leaders of the victorious opposition, Dzhaba Ioseliani, in turn stresses that Georgia needs Eduard Shevardnadze more than ever before.

Opposition Leader Supports Gamsakhurdia Ouster

LD0901161992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1453 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 9 Jan (TASS)—We see the departure of Zviad Gamsakhurdia from the political arena as the only way to avert a confrontation that may cause the fire of a civil war to burn among Armenia's neighbors, stated Paruir Ayrikyan, the leader of the Armenian Association of National Self-Determination, at a news conference here today. There was no alternative to the armed overthrow of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, he added.

Paruir Ayrikyan arrived in the Georgian capital heading a delegation of the opposition forces of Armenia to study first hand the situation in the republic. According to him, the Georgian opposition had no other way out because the president and the other rulers were the first to resort to armed actions against the dissident movement and to the mass arests of political opponents.

Border Troops Clash With Fighters

LD1001112392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0949 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Znamenskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—A confrontation between border troops and Georgian fighters near the village of Akhalkakhati lasted more than 24 hours. A TASS correspondent was told at the committee for the protection of the state frontier that on 9 January a convoy of 19 vehicles from the Transcaucasian Border District was blocked by about 600 fighters with several machine guns. They demanded that the border troops hand over their weapons and vehicles, threatening to kill them if they did not.

The border troops took up defensive positions. Colonel Grigoriy Grigoryevskiy, who went to talk to the fighters, was taken hostage. To avert possible bloodshed, the border troops complied with some of the demands. The convoy went on its way only after 36 rifles, two machine guns, and two mortars had been exchanged for the officer.

Sigua 'Does Not Rule Out' Joining CIS

LD1001114292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Acting Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua does not rule out the possibility of the republic joining the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. At a news conference in Tbilisi he said that after a thorough study the government will present the issue to parliament, which will make the final decision. According to the head of the provisional Georgian Government, Gamsakhurdia was prepared to sign the treaty and even sent his representatives to Alma-Ata and Minsk, but Russian President Boris Yeltsin put up all sorts of barriers, justifying his position by human rights violations in Georgia. Tengiz Sigua also said there will evidently soon be talks with the Russian and Ukrainian presidents at which the main topic will be the regulation of economic relations between the three republics of the former union.

Supreme Soviet To Discuss New Elections

LD0901121492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1120 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By SAKINFORM agency correspondent Ediberidze for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 9 Jan (TASS)—"An extraordinary session of the Georgian parliament, which was suspended after the overthrow of Gamsakhurdia's dictatorial regime, will decide Georgia's fate," Tengiz Kitovani, one of the leaders of the republic's Military Council, stated at a news conference here today.

The main issues at the forthcoming session are the self-dissolution of the present parliament and the scheduling of fresh elections. It was stressed at the news conference that once the session starts its work, the Military Council will cede its powers. All of the power in Georgia will belong to the temporary government right up to the new elections.

Speaking of his own future, Tengiz Kitovani noted that he has a splendid profession: he is an artist and sculptor and will return to his favorite work with pleasure. Professor Dzhaba Ioseliani, a philologist, said the same thing. However, both leaders of the Military Council think that if their knowledge and experience can serve the interests of Georgia and its people then they are prepared to serve them in the political arena.

Provisional Government Declaration Issued

LD0901224592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2145 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By unidentified TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (TASS)—"The provisional government of the Republic of Georgia is authorized to declare: In December 1991 and January 1992 a nationwide democratic uprising took place in Georgia against a criminal regime which had proven that communist, totalitarian rule might be replaced by an authoritarian government sheltering behind nationalist slogans." These words are contained in the document entitled: "The Political Thinking of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Georgia," circulated today by Georgia's permanent mission in Moscow.

The document says that the government of the Republic of Georgia "will create every condition for new parliamentary elections to take place in the next few months in a peaceful, stable atmosphere. The first steps aimed at restoring civil accord and peace in Georgia, on the basis of guarantees of the interests and rights of ethnic minorities, have already been taken."

Turning to the matter of relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the provisional government declares that they "will be determined after the extraordinary elections and the creation of a new parliament."

The declaration was signed by Tengiz Sigua.

South Ossetian Situation Said Stabilizing

LD1001122392 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 10 TASS—Steps to stabilise the socio-political situation in South Ossetia are apparently beginning to yield positive results. According to the local informational committee's press centre, it was quiet last night in critical spots of the area—on the distant approaches to Tskhinval and in Znauri district. Gun emplacements in nearby Georgian villages remained silent. The Ossetian guards did not open fire, too. No casualties were reported.

Local analysts believe the relaxation of inter-ethnic tension and subsiding Ossetian-Georgian confrontation are explained by the events in Georgia after Zviad Gamsakhurdia's downfall.

The first signs of peaceful life are particularly noticeable in the administrative centre. Tskhinval is again supplied with electricity and work is under way to restore gas and water mains. The urban transport is working again and the shops are open. A motor column with humanitarian aid has arrived in Tskhinval from Vladikavkaz under the escort of servicemen and self-defence detachments.

Now the South Ossetian armed forces are trying to lift the transport blockade of the main Dzhava-Tskhinval highway and to start regular traffic along it. Contradictory information is being received from distant Ossetian villages in Znauri and Tskhinval districts. But the first steps to normalise the situation are apparent there too: punitive actions against the civilian population have been stopped.

The Ossetian side has received as an act of good will the release of Torez Kulumbekov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the South Ossetian republic, from the isolation ward of the Georgian KGB. He was accused of fanning up inter-ethnic strife between Ossetians and Georgians.

Estonia

Government, Soviet Forces Hold Food Talks

OW1001010392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2000 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Transmitted by KYODO]

[Text] Thomas Puura, head of the Estonian government's state and border protection department, told BF [BALTFAX] that on January 10 the Estonian government and the Command of the Soviet Northwestern group of forces start negotiations on food supplying of troops stationed on Estonian territory. As BF reported earlier, on January 2 Estonia stopped delivering food to Soviet military units on its territory. Puura explained the move by the food crisis in the republic. [sentence as received] He also said that in late 1991 the military were notified that because of grain shortages in Estonia grain supplies to the units would be suspended. However, the Estonian government has not adopted any official resolutions cutting food supplies to the military units, Puura added.

He noted that the goverment would not object if the military buy meat and grain from farmers at free prices. Puura acknowledged that "hungry soldiers can bring about a lot of problems."

Lithuania

Decree Protests Troop Moves, Bans 'Recruits'

LD0901155392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The Soviet Union does not exist any more, yet the Soviet Armed Forces still remain, and certain problems occur.

A decree of the Lithuanian Government reads: Taking into consideration the fact that, in violation of the norms of international law and without prior agreement with the Lithuanian Government, an additional contingent of troops from the former Soviet Union was deployed to Lithuania in December 1991, the government of Lithuania therefore decrees:

To ban the recruits called for the Army service and any other contingent of Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union from deployment in the republic of Lithuania without the permission of the Lithuanian Government.

The National Defense Ministry must warn the military units of the former Soviet Union that are temporary deployed in Lithuania about possible sanctions for violation of the established order.

To entrust the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with the Ministry of Communications and the National Defense Ministry with the task of monitoring how the above decree is being carried out.

[Signed] The prime minister of the republic of Lithuania

Missile-Carrying Convoy Stopped at Border

LD0901200292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By correspondent Antanas Valaitis]

[Text] An incident took place last night at the Panemune border post in Silute Rayon. Twenty-five powerful vehicles carrying surface-to-surface missiles and a column of ZIL and other vehicles awoke residents in Silute and neighboring villages when arriving at the Panemune border post barrier.

This military equipment was proceeding from the territory of the republic of Latvia to Kaliningrad Oblast. The men at the border post did not allow the Soviet military equipment and soldiers to pass. The soldiers tried to prove they had a special permit from the republic of Lithuania allowing them to cross to the other side of the river.

The official on duty at the border contacted the Ministry of National Defense and was informed that there was no such permit. He was ordered to observe the order by the Lithuanian prime minister not to allow the Soviet Army equipment and soldiers to pass.

Today I was told by Sigitas Cerneckis, commander of the Panemune border post, that the missiles and other equipment were on the territory of the Pagegiai military unit. He also said that Colonel Sergeyev, deputy commander of the missile division who arrived in Panemune, threatened the men at the border post, saying that if they did not allow them to pass, he would launch several missiles and wipe Penemune off the surface of the earth. By using such threats the commanders of the Soviet Army want to intimidate the men of our border service.

Prime Minister Protests Army Activity

LD0901231192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Despite protests by the Lithuanian Government and bans on the former Soviet Army holding military exercises, more intensive night movements of its troops was noted in Lithuania yesterday. Its military hardware also caused material damage.

Speaking at a news conference today, Prime Minister Gedimanas Vagnorius said a demand would be made for compensation to be made for the damage caused, while protests against such activity will be voiced at the highest level.

[Moscow TASS in English at 2305 GMT on 9 January adds the following: "We should not let the military eating Lithuanian bread do harm to Lithuania," Lithuanian Prime Minister Gedimanas Vagnorius said at a news conference in Vilnius on Thursday [9 January].

[He said that despite the local military commanders' promises not to hold war games in the republic, the last night "was not quiet. Military vehicles damaged roads and road installations".

[Vagnorius said he will urge the Russian leadership and commanders of the Commonwealth armed forces to give an immediate explanation of the "incidents and compensate for the damage". Otherwise, Lithuania will have to "take the most severe sanctions," primarily logistic ones, Vagnorius said.]

Army Commander Criticizes Government

LD0901165592 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—Commander of the North-Western Group of Forces Colonel General Valeriy Mironov blasted the Lithuanian leadership in a phone interview with TASS today for "whipping up anti-Army sentiments" in the Baltic republic.

Mironov criticised the Lithuanian Government for its recent decision to scrap quartermaster units of the former Soviet Defence Ministry and give their facilities to local councils.

He promised to submit an official protest to the Lithuanian Government, stressing that "illegal confiscation of Army property will be stopped and the property will be taken under protection".

Mironov said that Army units have been conducting "ordinary exercises that do not envisage mass movement of personnel". Army officials are holding combat exercises from January 2 to 10 in line with an agreement with Lithuanian authorities, he said.

Lithuanian representative in Moscow Egidijus Biciauskas told TASS that his government's actions were intended to grant former Soviet Army personnel equal rights with Lithuanian citizens. The military can privatise army flats, he said.

Minister Claims Russia 'Terminating' Supplies

LD1001040292 Moscow TASS in English 2305 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Excerpt] Vilnius January 10 TASS—[passage omitted] Speaking on the economic situation in the republic [at a Vilnius news conference on 9 January], Prime Minister [Gedimanas Vagnorius] accused Russia of "terminating or reducing" its supplies to Lithuania. Under an agreement between both states, Russia promised to preserve 70 per cent of its last year's supplies to Lithuania this year.

The Lithuanian leadership has warned Russia, Kaliningrad region and Belarus it will stop its power and other supplies to these region if they fail to fulfill their obligations, Vagnorius said.

Sends Food Deliveries Telegram to Moscow

LD1001101892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Gedimanas Vagnorius has sent a telegram to Luzhov, head of the Moscow administration, saying that in accordance with the Lithuanian-Russian agreement, the republic is able to supply Moscow with 40,000 tons of meat, including 28,000 tons of beef and 12,000 tons of poultry, and 200,000 tons of milk products, including 6,200 tons of butter, 5,500 tons of cheese, and 2.5 million cans of milk.

These food products, the telegram says, will be sold at agreed prices: 80 rubles [R] per kilogram of butter, R90 per kilogram of cheese, R10 per can milk, R60 per kilogram of beef, and R40 for the same quantity if poultry. Later on, these food products will be sold at market prices.

Vagnorius informs Moscow's government in his telegram that in 1991 Lithuania was not supplied with over 600,000 tons of grain envisaged in the interrepublic agreement. Therefore Lithuania's Government is asking that Lithuania be supplied in the immediate future with 400-500,000 tons of grain to cover last year's debt. "We will be able to supply our products only if Russia's suppliers observe the interstate agreement and ensure that in the first quarter of 1992 the supplies constitute not less than 70 percent of the volume of the deliveries during the same period of last year, as was agreed with Russia's leadership." If the agreement is not observed, meat and milk products can be supplied only on the basis of direct exchange under a seperate agreement, the prime minister's telegram says.

It is also stated that the possibility of rendering additional free food aid to Moscow is being examined.

Landsbergis To Meet Yeltsin in Moscow 16 Jan

LD0901234392 Moscow TASS in English 2131 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius January 9 TASS—Lithuanian parliamentary leader Vytautas Landsbergis will meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on January 16, Lithuanian parliamentary spokesman Audryus Azhubalis said at a briefing today.

Both leaders will discuss Lithuanian-Russian relations and new political realities that have emerged after the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The spokesman said Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski will visit Lithuania between January 12-13 to sign a consular agreement and a declaration on good-neighbourly relations and cooperation between Lithuania and Poland.